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East Asia

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Thai Commander Urges ASEAN Arms Production

BK1907013790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should be self-reliant on security matters and enter into joint arms production in the face of a global change in the balance of power, Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said yesterday.

Gen Sunthon said after returning from a trip to Manila that "half" of the six-member ASEAN countries had already agreed to the idea but declined to single out who were "for" or "against such a programme."

ASEAN as a group had to maintain its defence posture amidst the changing balance of power on a global scale which was causing a power "vacuum" in the region, he said.

"If we cannot depend on our collective forces, a new power would inevitably influence and dominate us in the future," Sunthon added. "We should therefore stick to each other to defend our common interests."

He said the joint arms production of ASEAN was possible because of the high productive capacity of Singapore and Indonesia in the arms industry.

The joint effort should take the form of producing weapon parts in particular countries with the parts being assembled in others.

An ASEAN joint military exercise, other than those which presently which were bilateral in nature, should also be discussed to strengthen the proposed idea of the group's self-reliance in defence.

Gen Sunthon, however, said the programme had to pass through a long discussion among ASEAN countries and said he did not expect an implementation of the scheme in the near future.

Asked whether he discussed the US military bases in Philippines with Philippine leaders, the supreme commander said he had informed President Aquino that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan supported the US presence in the republic.

"I told her (President Aquino) that our prime minister told (US President George) Bush in Washington last month that the US should pay the rent (of the bases) as demanded by the host," Gen Sunthon said.

Gen Sunthon said President Aquino had high praise for Thailand which sent 500 tons of rice as immediate relief to the Philippines which suffered from a devastating earthquake this weekend.

Official Hints at ASEAN Action on Refugees

BK1907020190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 90 p 4

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Excerpt] ASEAN might resort to formulating tougher measures against Vietnamese screened out as non-refugees during their upcoming ministerial meeting in Jakarta next week if no compromising sign by the US is seen, a Thai senior official said yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry's Director General of International Organizations Department Kasit Phirom, who is a member of ASEAN working group on refugees said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expected the US counter-proposal to its new plan this week. And if there is no shift in the US position, ASEAN may inevitably be forced to take tougher actions, he added.

Kasit warned that Malaysia might urge all ASEAN members to join in tougher efforts to settle the problem on their own and the members may find it difficult to resist the call.

The working group is scheduled to meet this Saturday to draft out a position paper for ASEAN senior officials to endorse prior to their ministerial gathering from July 23 to 25.

"We abide by the spirit of compromise and the rule of international burden sharing spelled out in the CPA (comprehensive plan of action) but it is not fair to let first asylum countries alone take this course while the US and Vietnam ignore the problem," Kasit said.

Malaysia, the most outspoken advocate for the forcible repatriation of non-refugees last week squabbled with the US over the latter's linkage of the alleged push back of the boat people by Malaysia with the withdrawal of tariff and trade preferences the US gives under the Generaiised System of Preferences (GSP) and denial of aid by the World Bank and other organisations. [passage omitted]

Japan

Kaifu Welcomes U.S. Initiative Toward Vietnam

OW1907075090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday welcomed the latest U.S. initiative toward Vietnam as a "new wind" blowing in favor of a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Kaifu denied that the U.S. plan to open dialogue with Vietnam over the Cambodian conflict would affect Japan's policy of backing the coalition of Cambodian rebel forces joined by the Khmer Rouge.

"This won't have any impact. Japan also wants to cooperate for peace and it's a good thing for various countries to take various approaches," he told reporters. On Wednesday U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced in Paris that the U.S. would withdraw its support for the resistance coalition's holding of Cambodia's seat in the United Nations to launch a new dialogue with Vietnam. Japan does not recognize the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government of Hun Sen, but in an exceptional move in June Kaifu met briefly with Hun Sen, who was in Tokyo to attend a peace conference on Cambodia.

Earlier in the day, in a speech before the Japan Executive Managers' Association, Kaifu said Japan's first major effort to bring the four warring parties together had been "imperfect." Japan hosted a meeting attended by Hun Sen and three allied factions of the Khmer Rouge, Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann in early June, but the China-backed Khmer Rouge boycotted the talks.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials were cautious on the announced withdrawal of U.S. support for the seating of the resistance coalition in the U.N. The coalition's U.N. delegation is presently headed by a representative of the Khmer Rouge, which is widely held responsible for slaughter of more than a million Cambodians during its 1975-79 rule. The officials noted concern that the U.S. move may be followed by several European countries which have also indicated their discomfort with the Khmer Rouge's presence in the international body. If the U.S. move gains broad support, one official said, "Japan may be put in a difficult position."

"But basically we don't think that the present situation forces us to change our previous position (of supporting the resistance coalition in the U.N.)," the official said. The official said he doubts that the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would be willing to reconsider their supportive stance either. Nevertheless, he said, Baker's announcement will likely stimulate discussion on Cambodia at the July 27-29 ministerial meeting in Jakarta between ASEAN and its six dialogue partners—Japan, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community (EC).

Nicaraguan Envoy on U.S. Charges Against Tapia

OW1907091990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Nicaragua's ambassador to Japan said Thursday his embassy's first secretary, detained on the request of the United States for alleged drug trafficking, is innocent and urged his release.

Ambassador Jorge Huezo Castillo at a press conference defended the embassy's First Secretary William M. Tapia, whom Japanese prosecutors have detained based on an extradition request by U.S. authorities. U.S. investigators allege Tapia smuggled heroin from Thailand to New York in April and October 1987, 30 kilograms each time, taking advantage of his diplomatic privileges. The ambassador, however, told reporters that Tapia never traveled to the U.S. in 1987 and stressed he should be released unless U.S. or Japanese authorities can prove he visited that country.

Huezo said in April that year, Tapia was in Japan to act for the ambassador who was on a business trip to the Philippines. He also said Tapia was in Japan with him during October 1987. At that time, Nicaragua's Sandinista government was seriously at odds with Washington and it was difficult for Nicaraguans, even diplomats, to visit the U.S., the ambassador added.

Japanese, U.S. Eye Nuclear Plants in Indonesia

OW1807181790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Three Japanese companies plan to export a new type of nuclear power plant to Indonesia, jointly with General Electric Co. (GE) of the United States, industry sources said Wednesday.

Mitsui and Co., Toshiba Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. are considering exporting several boiling water reactors (BWR), called S-BWR, now under development by GE. The planned exports, if they materialize, will be the first ever by Japanese companies. The sources said the export plan came against the backdrop of a shrinking market for nuclear power plants in Japan amid growing concerns over the danger posed by nuclear power generation.

The deal, estimated to be worth more than 1 trillion yen, will be equally beneficial to Indonesia, which wants to introduce nuclear power plants in order to put aside more domestically produced crude oil for exports and earn more foreign currency, they said. Indonesian President Suharto had announced a plan to build several nuclear power plants in the future to supply about 7 million kilowatts of electricity through nuclear power generation.

The S-BWR, whose development is also participated in by engineers from the three firms and officials from the Indonesian Government, is expected to be priced at around 200 billion yen per reactor, the sources said.

The U.S.-Japan consortium, however, is not the only one with an eye on the Indonesian plan. Mitsubishi Heavy Industry and Westinghouse Electric Co. of the United States also have a plan to export a simplified version of pressurized water reactors (PWRS), called AS600, to that country, giving rise to the possibility of fierce rivalry with the four- company group in bidding for the deal, slated by 1996, according to the sources.

Kaifu Urges PRC To Strive for Democratization

OW1907090290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday told China-Japan Friendship Association Chairman Sun Pinghua that China should further strive for democratization following Japan's decision to unfreeze a suspended loan package.

Kaifu made the comments in a meeting at the prime minister's official residence, a government official said. Kaifu was quoted as saying strict assessments of China were voiced during the recent summit meeting of seven major industrialized nations in Houston, Texas.

"I strongly expect China to make more efforts to continue reform and open-door policies," the official quoted Kaifu as saying. Kaifu also told Sun he considers Japan is able to unfreeze the suspended loans thanks to an understanding reached with summit leaders following Kaifu's announcement of a gradual release of 810 billion yen in loans to China at the Houston summit, the official said.

When questioned by Sun on the development of Japan-China relations, Kaifu was quoted as saying, "it is quite important to promote cooperation between Japan and China in settling the Cambodian peace issue which is crucial for peace and prosperity in Asia." Kaifu asked Sun to ensure that China will exert its influence on the Khmer Rouge toward a settlement of the 11-year-old conflict, the official said. Kaifu also told Sun that he has no plan at present to visit China for the Beijing Asian Games in September, the official said.

Mission To Visit PRC Before Loan Resumption

OW1907133190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan will dispatch an investigating mission to China in late July in preparation for the planned resumption of its loans to that country, possibly in September, Foreign Ministry sources said Thursday.

The mission, comprising senior officials from the foreign, finance, and international trade and industry ministries, as well as the Economic Planning Agency, will stay in China for about a week to study the feasibility of projects covered by the 810 billion yen loan package promised for fiscal 1990-95.

Based on the findings of the mission, the government is expected to unfreeze in September its third yen loan, on hold since Beijing's suppression on the pro-democracy movement in June last year, government sources said.

A year after Japan and Western countries decided on economic sanctions against China in protest at the crackdown, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu won a tacit go-ahead for Japan's plan to reopen the credit from his Western counterparts at the recent summit meeting of seven major industrialized nations in Houston, Texas.

Kaifu Views PRC Links, Defends Aid Decision

OW1907150490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Thursday likened Japan's resumption of aid to China to West Germany's economic assistance to the Soviet Union.

"Just as (summit countries) recognized West Germany's right to decide for itself on dispensing aid to the Soviet Union, there was also no opposition (by those countries) to Japan's stance toward China," Kaifu said. Kaifu was defending Japan's decision to resume economic assistance to China, which was announced at last week's summit of seven industrial powers in Houston. The prime minister, in an hour-long speech before the Japan Executive Managers' Association, said Japan differs with European nations in its analysis of democratization in China following the violent suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last summer.

"From the European perspective, the Tiananmen Square incident was impermissible and inhumane, and China has failed to reconsider," Kaifu said. He said Japan shares with European nations opposition to the crackdown, but he said "we appraise China's efforts to democratize." Kaifu cited the lifting of martial law and the release of political prisoners. Kaifu said Japan will resume an 810 billion yen loan package to China that was frozen after the Tiananmen Square crackdown for two reasons: that China is a neighboring country and that the loans were promised in 1988 by then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. Kaifu often has stressed that avoiding isolation of China is essential to maintaining stability in Asia.

"We have a responsibility to explain to Europe not only about China but also about other issues facing Asia," he said. In addition, Kaifu repeated his view that it is important for the international community to view Japan's territorial dispute with the Soviet Union as a part of the East-West conflict. The Soviet occupation since World War II of four islands north of Hokkaido is a remnant of Joseph Stalin's expansionist policies, Kaifu said. The East-West split will not be over until this issue is resolved, Kaifu said.

He said he hoped a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in September and by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev early next year would help resolve the 45-year-old dispute. Also in his speech, Kaifu vowed to help turn Asia into an increasingly influential region of the world.

"In the 21st century, I believe that Asia will have a very important role in the world," Kaifu said.

Sakamoto Denies Minister Hori To Visit PRC

OW1907035590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Chief government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto on Thursday denied that Japan's Education Minister Kosuke Hori will visit China in September.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told Chinese leaders in Beijing on Wednesday that Hori will travel to China during the Asian Games in Beijing in September. Sakamoto, the chief cabinet secretary, categorically denied Hori would make such a trip, during a regularly scheduled news conference at the prime minister's official residence Thursday morning. Sakamoto said the remarks Mitsuzuka made in Beijing were his own and do not reflect a government decision.

"It is regrettable in this sense," Sakamoto said.

Mitsuzuka, who was visiting China as the head of a 10-member delegation from one of the major factions of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, also told Chinese leaders that Japan plans to send former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita as a special envoy to the Asian Games. But speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said he has not heard of the proposed Takeshita trip.

Mitsuzuka also told his Chinese hosts that Japan was ready to provide 60 billion yen in loans to China in September and a similar amount in February as part of Japan's plan to gradually unfreeze an 810 billion yen loan package. Kaifu announced Japan's decision to reopen the loan package committed for fiscal 1990-1995 at the economic summit of seven industrialized nations in Houston, Texas, last week.

No-Contact Policy Reaffirmed

OW1907061190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0514 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan will not breach a ban on high-level contacts with Beijing by sending a cabinet minister to China for the Asian Games, chief government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Thursday.

Sakamoto made the comment following reports that former Japanese Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told Chinese leaders in Beijing on Wednesday that Japan's Education Minister Kosuke Hori will travel to China during the Asian Games scheduled to take place in September. Sakamoto, the chief cabinet secretary, told reporters in his regular news conference Thursday morning that the Government has no plan "at the current stage" to send Hori to China as it would violate a policy against high-level government contacts.

The group of seven major industrialized nations, which includes Japan, barred high-level government contacts with China as part of sanctions imposed at the 1989 Paris economic summit in protest against the crackdown on Tiananmen Square prodemocracy demonstrators in Beijing in June last year. The no-contact policy was maintained by the group of seven leaders at their summit meeting in Houston this year, although they agreed to ease the sanctions if China shows progress toward democratization, particularly its human rights policy.

If China becomes more democratic, then Japan will consider reviewing the policy against cabinet-level contacts, Sakamoto said. He declined to specify what signals Japan is waiting for, saying China "knows well" what it must do.

"This is something that China has to think about. It is not for me to say," Sakamoto said when asked to describe Japan's views on progress toward democratization. Mitsuzuka, in a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Peng on Wednesday, also told the Chinese leader that Japan plans to send former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita as a special envoy to the Asian Games.

"At this time we have not decided whether to send (an envoy) or who it should be," Sakamoto said. He said the matter was to be decided by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Kaifu said he has not heard of Takeshita's proposed trip to China. Kaifu, meeting a Chinese envoy currently on a visit to Japan, also ruled out his own visit to China during the Asian Games.

Sakamoto also denied that Mitsuzuka's explanation on implementing loans made during a visit to Beijing is official goverment policy. "Nothing has been decided about when and how much should be released," Sakamoto said. Mitsuzuka, in a meeting with Chinese leaders Wednesday, said Japan plans to start releasing loans with two 60 billion yen packages ready for disbursal in September and February. Sakamoto said Mitsuzuka's remarks in Beijing were his own and do not reflect a government decision. "It is regrettable in this sense."

At the July 9-11 Houston summit, Japan announced plans to make available its 810 billion yen loan package originally slated for implementation from 1990-1995. The program was frozen to protest China's crackdown last summer on prodemocracy demonstrators at Tiananmen Square. Mitsuzuka was in China as the head of a 10-member delegation from one of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's major factions.

Kaifu Declines Comment on Chinese Hijacker

OW1807125790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu declined to comment on the sentencing Wednesday of a Chinese hijacker, as Japan moved to distance itself from the self-confessed prodemocracy activist who earlier this year sought political asylum in Japan after hijacking a commercial airplane.

"This is a matter for the Chinese courts, so I am not in a position to say whether (the sentence) is heavy or light, or good or bad," Kaifu told reporters when asked to comment on Zhang Zhenhai's eight-year sentence for commandeering a plane to Japan last December.

"In Japan we have a checks and balances system in government, so we can't comment (on court rulings). I have nothing to say," Kaifu said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, after declining to comment on court procedures earlier in the day, announced in the afternoon that Japan welcomed China's decision to allow Japanese reporters to observe Zhang's trial.

Japan is interested in the trial because of its own role in extraditing Zhang to China, and welcomes the acceptance of Japanese observers as a sign of democratic practices, Sakamoto said in a statement.

The top government spokesman declined to comment on China's refusal to allow Zhang's Japanese legal counsel to attend the trial.

The one-day trial concluded with Zhang receiving an eight-year sentence for hijacking a China Air passenger plane to Japan last December 16 and a two year suspension of his civic rights.

Zhang apparently was not prosecuted for his participation in prodemocracy rallies in Tiananmen Square in June last year.

Japanese Embassy officials also attended the trial, but according to one Foreign Ministry official they only did so because many journalists had asked the government to monitor the proceedings.

"We trust the Chinese Government because they gave a written paper saying they would conduct a fair trial," he said.

He said China was expected to treat Zhang differently from other prodemocracy activists, some of whom were executed for their actions, because of the written commitment.

The official said Japan does not view Zhang's case as related to China's overall human right's record, or Japan's resumption of economic assistance.

The trial coincided with Japan's first high-level diplomatic mission to Beijing since China's military crackdown against Tiananmen Square demonstrators. On the eve of the trial Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada told Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen that Tokyo will release 810 billion yen in loans, breaking with economic sanctions imposed by Western nations in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Kazuo Ito, Zhang's chief attorney, said he was concerned that due to the trial's rapid conclusion the defendant may not have been granted due process.

"It is important for the government to continue observing the enforcement of Zhang's sentence to make sure that there is no injustice," Ito said.

Zhang told a Japanese court prior to his extradition in April that he decided to hijack the plane to flee from persecution for his participation in Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Human rights activists have expressed concern that Zhang may be subjected to persecution for his political beliefs after he is imprisoned and hidden from the international limelight.

The whereabouts of Zhang's wife and child, who also were onboard the China Air flight en route from Beijing to Shanghai, have not been independently confirmed since their return to China with other Chinese passengers shortly after the hijacking took place.

Soviet Institute Head on Northern Territories

OW1907003390 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1234 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Interview with Mikhail Titarenko, director of the Far East Institute of the Soviet Union, now on a visit to Japan, by an unidentified interviewer, from the "NHK News 21" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] At the recent Houston summit, the participating nations incorporated an item on the northern territories issue into their joint statement for the first time. It said they take note that a peaceful resolution to the northern territories issue with the Soviet Union is important to the Government of Japan.

So, the view of the Soviet side on this statement has been the focus of public attention. Now, Mr. Titerenko, director of the Far East Institute of the Soviet Union, who is President Gorbachev's advisor on Japan policy, is now on a visit to Japan. In an NHK interview, he expressed his views as follows:

[Begin Titarenko recording in Russian with Japanese translation provided in subtitles; following is from the Japanese] The Soviet Union's attitude to the Asian countries is not adamant. If the conditions are right, even a new approach is possible. If the Japanese side shows sincerity, just as West Germany put forward individual proposals to the Soviet Union, the Soviet

Union will respond to it. I think Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will visit Japan, bringing with him a new proposal for the solution of the issue. I think that, when Mr. Gorbachev visits Japan, it will be possible to reach a principled agreement. [end recording]

Mr. Titarenko showed a positive view on the northern territories issue—namely, a new approach from the Soviet side. However, he touched on the issue of the Russian Republic's sovereign rights as a new question. The northern territories belong to the Russian Republic of the Soviet Union. The Russian Republic declared its sovereign rights the other day, stating that the republic's Constitution takes precedence over the federal Constitution. Meanwhile, its leader, Supreme Soviet Chairman Yeltsin, left the Communist Party at the CPSU Congress last week. Therefore, it has become difficult to solve the northern territories issue through the Federal Government of the Soviet Union only. That is Mr. Titarenko's view. The following is his remarks on that portion:

[Begin Titarenko recording] Negotiations on the territorial issue will be conducted by the federal government, but I think the Russian Republic will also participate in one form or another. That is because it amounts to an issue of the Russian Republic's borders. The consent of the citizens of the republic is necessary and I think a national referendum in the republic will be its method. [end recording]

Thus, Mr. Titarenko touched on the possibility of a national referendum in the Russian Republic. However, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said the authority of the Russian Republic is not definite yet. It added that it is impossible to pass judgment on this question yet. The view of the Japanese Foreign Ministry is that the northern islands are Japan's inherent territories and a national referendum on the premise that they are Soviet territories will not be conducive to the solution of this issue.

JSP Delegation Departs for Talks in DPRK

OW1907035790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—A high-powered delegation of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) headed to Pyongyang on Thursday to seek a "breakthrough" in stalled Japan-North Korea relations and win the release of two Japanese seamen detained by North Korea since 1983.

The six-member delegation, headed by JSP Vice Chairman Wataru Kubo, will arrive in the North Korean capital on Friday evening via Beijing and stay until Monday. Makoto Tanabe, also a vice chairman of the party, is scheduled to join the delegation on Saturday.

"We would like to take this opportunity to exchange views candidly on how to improve Japan-(North) Korean relations and hope the talks will lead to a breakthrough," Kubo told reporters before boarding the plane bound for Beijing.

While in Pyongyang, the delegation will meet Korean Workers Party Politburo member Ho Dam and other party officials to exchange views on bilateral and international affairs. The JSP group also hopes to meet North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The JSP, Japan's largest opposition group, has been the main conduit for communication between Japan and North Korea in the absence of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The JSP delegation will convey to Pyongyang Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's desire for improved Japan-North Korean relations, party officials said. Kaifu said earlier this month that Japan wants to hold talks with Pyongyang "without any preconditions" on improving bilateral ties.

The delegation plans to lay the groundwork for a reciprocal visit to Japan by a group of high-ranking Korean Workers Party officials, and a visit to Pyongyang by a Japanese parliamentary group headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru.

The group also intends to seek the release of Isamu Beniko and Yoshio Kuriura, the captain and chief engineer of the No. 18 Fuji Maru who have been held by North Korea on espionage charges since November 1983.

The JSP group will aiso sound out North Korea on its willingness to accept an international demand that it permit on-site inspection of nuclear facilities in the country by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency [Authority].

EC To Attend High-Level Trade Talks in Tokyo

OW1807133290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Japan and the European Community (EC) will hold high-level talks in Tokyo October 25 and 26 to discuss the trade imbalance and other bilateral economic issues, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Ministry officials said the EC will send a delegation led by Horst Krenzler, director general for external relations, to the talks, while the Japanese side will be represented by Deputy Vice Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe and other officials. Japan and the EC held lower-level trade talks in Tokyo Monday with discussions centered on removal of Japan's trade barriers, but they failed to reach an agreement. The two sides will hold another round of working-level talks in Brussels early in October to pave the way for the high-level talks, which the officials said will produce an interim report on bilateral trade questions.

French Premier Rocard Arrives for Tokyo Talks

OW1907011890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—French Premier Michel Rocard arrived at Haneda International Airport on Thursday for three days of talks aimed at achieving further economic and technological cooperation.

Rocard will meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu later in the day at the Akasaka Government Guesthouse, in the first of a round of talks with Japanese government leaders, politicians, and businessmen. Before the Kaifu meeting, Rocard will also take part in signing ceremonies to effect a revised agreement of the Japan-France Nuclear Cooperation Pact.

Rocard is traveling with his wife, Michele, in what the Japanese Foreign Ministry describes as an official working visit.

On Friday, Rocard is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto in the morning. Rocard will likely take up France's 29 billion franc (about 780 billion yen) trade deficit with Japan and urge further efforts by the Japanese toward market liberalization and call for more Japanese investment in his nation. Rocard and his wife will be received by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in an audience Friday afternoon.

The French premier will meet former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Friday evening before attending a France-Japan Friendship Association reception. Takeshita originally invited Rocard to Japan shortly after he came to office in May 1988. On Saturday morning, Rocard will meet with Takako Doi, chairwoman of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, before heading to Shizuoka Prefecture where he will confer with Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and other Japanese business leaders in the privacy of the Keidanren Guesthouse in Oyama. Rocard is scheduled to depart from Haneda on Sunday.

Fujitsu Plans Takeover of UK Electronics Firm

OW1907065290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd., a leading Japanese computer manufacturer, is laying the groundwork for acquisition of a majority stake in ICL, Britain's largest computer maker, industry sources said Thursday.

Although Fujitsu declined to comment on the matter, the sources said the Japanese computer giant wants a 50-60 percent stake in the British firm. Negotiations between the two computer makers are currently under way, the sources said, adding that an official agreement is expected to be reached soon. If the deal goes through, the purchase will be a major takeover, with the total acquisition price projected to top 500 million pounds, the sources said. The purchase will help Fujitsu secure a major foothold in Europe in advance of the 1992 market integration of the European Community (EC).

ICL produces and markets computers ranging from mainframe to personal computers. Funded in part by the British Government when it was first established in 1968, ICL is now a subsidiary of Standard Telephones and Cables (STC) of Britain. Fujitsu has been supplying ICL with mainframe computers for sale under ICL's brand name since the two entered into technological and marketing partnership in 1981. Talk of possible takeover attempts by other firms forced Fujitsu, which also furnishes technology to ICL, to make the move, the industry sources said.

Compared with the U.S. and Japan, growth in the European computer industry is stagnating, making the British subsidiary an attractive takeover target, they said. If all goes according to the plan, the 500 million pound purchase will make it one of the most costliest foreign acquisitions by a Japanese firm. The impact of an acquisition of the British computer maker by Fujitsu will undoubtedly be felt by computer makers around the globe which have their hearts set on grabbing a slice of the European market, the sources said.

Panel Recommends Election Change for Upper House

OW1707165890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 17 KYODO—A panel on election reform Tuesday recommended that Japan change the way it chooses members of the House of Councillors.

The Election System Council, an advisory panel to the prime minister, is suggesting that upper house members be chosen in votes cast for individual candidates in proportional representation—rather than the current system that asks voters to cast ballots for political parties. Many council members have also said they support that successful candidates should be chosen simply by the number of votes they receive from the public. Two panel subcommittees recommended the number of overall seats in the upper house be maintained at the present 252. Also proposed by the panel were ways to reform the candidate selection process and crack down on vote-buying and other illegal acts.

The panel plans to finalize its reform plans by the end of this month. The first reform recommendation plan for the House of Representatives was announced April 26. At present, voters cast a preference for parties to which the candidates they support belong. They do not directly vote for individual candidates. The number of seats alloted to parties is in proportion to the number of votes they win. Parties choose who will occupy seats from so-called party priority lists of candidates.

Reforms in the election system have been under study in a bid to regain voter confidence lost as a result of the Recruit stock-for-favors scandal last year. In the first

reform recommendation to the prime minister last April, the panel advised a combination of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation in the lower house, replacing the current multiple-seat constituencies.

Suspected Firebomb at Former Airport Head's Home

OW1907035990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The former director of the New Tokyo International Airport reported finding a suspicious-looking parcel at the front door of his home in Tokyo early Thursday morning and may have thwarted an extremist firebombing attack.

Kenji Matsuoka, 50, currently the head of the Transport Ministry's Civil Aviation College, was awakened by his barking dog shortly after 4 AM, and went to investigate. At the front door of his Nishi Shinjuku home, he discovered a black vinyl bag, which he suspected could be a firebomb. He alerted police, who found the makings of a firebomb inside the bag—batteries, wires, and fuel. The bag has been forwarded to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department where officials say public security personnel are carefully studying the construction of the apparent firebomb device.

Police said the device is similar to bombs used in previous arson attacks on the cars and homes of officials connected to the construction and expansion of the airport at Narita, Chiba Prefecture. Matsuoka was director of the airport until May. The second phase of airport construction and expansion continues haltingly despite the coordinated protests of local farmers and anti-airport activists.

Kaifu Not To Visit Yasukuni Shrine 15 Aug

OW1807181890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO— Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will not visit Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine dedicated to the war dead on August 15, the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II, out of consideration to neighboring nations, his aides said Wednesday.

In 1985, then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone visited the Shinto shrine where A-class war criminals are enshrined as the first prime minister to do so, provoking protests from other Asian countries. Since then, no prime minister has visited the shrine on that day.

Hashimoto, Central Bank Governor Address Forum

OW1907040390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno on Thursday advised a close watch on whether an unabated tightening of labor supply and high-paced money supply growth rate could fan inflation.

In a speech to a gathering of so-called second regional bankers, Mieno reaffirmed the importance of maintaining price stability by keeping an appropriate check on these potential high price mechanisms. The central bank governor has recently repeated that current prices were generally stable both at the wholesale and consumer levels but has acknowledged at the same time that stability would not be guaranteed for long without nipping inflationary pressure in the bud.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Mieno reiterated the central bank's current monetary policy will remain unchanged while closely monitoring the effects of the past hikes in the official discount rate. Mieno acknowledged at the previous day's press conference that the inflationary threat has grown somewhat recently, warning the current economic environment appears to no longer warrant the price stability Japan has long been enjoying. In an address to the bankers' conference, Mieno also urged banks to continue exercising discipline in their lending, in particular on land and other real estate-linked loans so as not to fuel speculative land transactions.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, another guest speaker at the gathering, also told a large attendance that he expects banks to help stem spiraling land prices through disciplined lending. Hashimoto said the ministry will continue its strict vigilance over bank loans related to land transactions by retaining aggregate quantitative control over such dealings. The finance minister also called for bankers to build up capability in risk management at a time when globalization and liberalization in financial markets are rapidly taking place. In a related comment, he asked for continued efforts by private banks to enhance the capital adequacy ratio mandated by the Basle- based Bank for International Settlements to tide over a difficulty the Japanese banks may face along with rapid liberalization of interest rates on bank deposits.

JSP Affirms Policy Against Rice Imports

OW1907110190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi, in a position paper released Thursday, reiterated JSP policy against the liberalization of rice imports.

Yamaguchi also wrote in the paper that the JSP will strive to improve grain self-sufficiency in Japan. His stand was approved by the central executive committee of the largest opposition party later the same day, party officials said. The statement comes after Shigeru Ito, JSP policy board chairman, told a meeting with U.S. Government officials and researchers in Washington on Monday that the party is considering a review of a 1988 Diet resolution supporting Japan's rice import ban. Ito is currently on a 10-day visit to the United States as a member of a multiparty parliamentary delegation led by former Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. The latest

statement is an apparent further attempt to clarify the party's basic position against the liberalization of rice imports to Japan as Ito's remark caused a sensation within the No. 1 opposition party, political analysts said.

The Yamaguchi position paper made reference to the party's decision to carry on a struggle against the liberalization of rice imports at a regular party congress last April. He also said the party reconfirmed its stand on the rice import ban at a national meeting of party branch secretaries general, resolving that, based on the Diet resolution, the party will strengthen its activities directed at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Yamaguchi told a press meeting later the same day that Japan should be self-sufficient in rice.

Interest Rates Blamed for Foreign Bank Losses

OW1907112490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Foreign banks operating in Japan posted their worst losses to date in the business year ended March 31, hurt partly by slimmer profit margins amid rising interest rates, financial sources said Thursday.

The sources said the 82 Japanese subsidiaries of foreign banks registered 30.2 billion yen in combined pretax losses, the largest since the first foreign banks opened offices here in the 19th century. Higher interest rates following a series of hikes in the official discount rate since May last year squeezed profit margins of these banks, which usually raise funds through the financial markets, the sources said. The sources also said the poor showing may lead to increased foreign criticism at the sluggishness of Japan's financial deregulation, which some banks blamed for their decreased earnings.

Toronto-Dominion Bank of Canada was the best performer with pretax profits totaling 3.7 billion yen, followed by Australia and New Zealand Banking Group of Australia, and Bankers Trust of the United States. Forty-three other banks were also in the black, the sources said. Showing losses were 36 banks, with Citibank of the United States topping the list with a 29.7 billion yen loss. Citibank officials attributed the big loss to the difference in accounting methods between Japan and the United States and the costs of branch expansion in Tokyo. Bank of America showed the second-worst loss of 4.3 billion yen, followed by Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust with 3.6 billion yen. U.S. banks accounted for seven of the worst 10 performers. In the face of the slumping results, some banks have already launched measures to rationalize their operations in Japan, including cuts in personnel, especially expatriates, whose costs put substantial pressure on earnings.

Rocket Manufacturing Company Inaugurated

OW0807032390 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 5 Jul 90

[Text] Japanese space-related businesses joined forces to set up a rocket manufacturing company today. Attending the inaugural general meeting of the company, called Rocket System, were representatives from 75 companies and banks, including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Nisan Motor Corporation, and Toshiba Corporation.

Rocket System plans to manufacture, on a commercial basis, the H-2 rockets developed by the National Space Development Agency [NASDA] and small rockets for space experiments. The firm will begin participating in the commercial rocket business in the latter half of the 90's.

High-Speed Optical Memory Material Developed

OW1107085390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 11 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 11 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) has developed a new optical memory material capable of memorizing data at ultra-high speed, the company said Wednesday.

The new material, based on a technique called the optochemical hole-burning method, can memorize data at a speed roughly 100 million times faster than existing optical storage materials, it said. The contents of a full newspaper page, equivalent to 250 kilobits of information, can be stored with the material in 0.0006 second, NTT said. The company said a 12-centimeter compact disk made of the new material can store roughly 1,000 times more data than a conventional compact disk. The material, a mixture of high-purity plastics used in eyeglasses, a chemical compound called tetraphenylporphine (TPP), and another compound contained in coal, could be used as a key memory material in the future, it said.

Mongolia

Ochirbat Holds 'Friendly Talk' With U.S. Envoy

OW1907094290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Mongolian People's Republic, Mr. Joseph Edward Lake, presented his credentials to Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of Mongolia Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat.

Mr. Ochirbat has had a friendly talk with the U.S. ambassador. He noted in particular that Mongolia is bent on effecting diplomatic renewal in order to ensure economic growth and high living standards. He has (?called) for developing cooperation with the United States of Americ to achieve these goals.

The U.S. ambassador appreciated the efforts by the Monglian Government aimed at promoting democracy,

human rights, market economy in Mongolia, and expressed his readiness to work in order to contribute to their implementation.

Gungaadorj Meets Nikitin-Led Soviet Delegation

OW1707123490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Mongolian Prime Minister Gungaadorj met with the Soviet delegation headed by Mr. Nikitin, first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union, and had a friendly talk. He leads the Soviet side of the intergovernmental commission on cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation at the 38th meeting of the commission under way in Ulaanbaatar. During the talks the two sides informed each other of the process of renewal taking place in both countries and highlighted the importance of the regular meeting of the intergovernmental commission in further development of the friendly ties and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The 38th meeting of the intergovernmental commission on cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation is discussing the switching over to world prices and convertible currency payment in bilateral trade and economic relations. It is also considering a series of vital problems on raising the efficiency of Mongol-Soviet multilateral relations. The present situation in Mongol-Soviet cooperation in geology, mining, and power industries is also being discussed.

BBC Correspondent Interviews G. Ochirbat

OW1907100990 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Chairman of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Gombojabyn Ochirbat has granted an interview (?at the weekend) at the request of Mr. (?James Mans), the BBC Beijing correspondent.

The leader of the ruling party of Mongolia told him about the party's role and goals of the renewal process going on in Mongolia, his party's stand in view of the multiparty system, and reforms within the party.

State Security Chief Holds News Conference

OW1907105590 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Head of the (?General) Board for State Security, Major General Tsiyregdzen, has held a press conference informing journalists about the reforms within the board as a result of democratic changes in Mongolian society. He [words indistinct] security organs, stop the activity against the nation's ideological (?orientation), nationalism, and nihilism. He told newsmen that the staff in security organs has been reduced by more than a half. Mr. Tsiyregdzen mentioned the main functions of the board will be supplying political information to the leadership of the state, ensuring their safety, combating foreign espionage, and defense of state (?branches).

The (?General) Board for State Security was set up two months ago to replace the Ministry of State Security.

North Korea

Further on Deadlock Over North-South Dialogue

Foreign Ministry Statement

SK1807225890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Press statement by DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman in response to question by KCNA reporter on 18 July—read by announcer]

[Text] The fact that dialogue recently is being resumed between the North and the South has proceeded from our consistent position and firm independent policy for achieving national reunification, which is the nation's domestic issue, independently and peacefully through dialogue based on the principle of great national unity. The resumption of such dialogue was not influenced by any outside force.

The North-South dialogue was temporarily suspended this year, too, as in the past, entirely because the United States and South Korea staged a large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercise which threatened us, the partner of dialogue.

As we have already declared at home and abroad, we took the initiative in proposing the resumption of North-South dialogue after the end of this military exercise. For successful progress in the dialogue, we put forward a new disarmament proposal and the proposal to realize broad-range contacts and visits between the North and the South based on the new five-point national reunification policies. Thus, we are making sincere efforts.

The broad international public opinion fairly appraised and noted that the North-South dialogue is being resumed thanks to our constructive and magnanimous attitude and that a sign of relaxation of tension and of the peaceful reunification is seen on the Korean peninsula and stressed that the South Korean side should come to the North-South dialogue with a sincere attitude instead of taking the nation's internal questions to the outside.

Distorted public opinion is spread at this time, talking as if resumption of North-South dialogue was realized by outside pressure and was a measure we have taken in an attempt to escape so-called isolation in consideration of close relations between the Soviet Union and the South Korean authorities. We must consider this is clearly a result of pursuance of other political aims.

Mass media and publication means in some other countries stated that the development of relations between

the Soviet Union and South Korea is playing an affirmative role in easing the situation on the Korean peninsula and this development has become a factor which actively contributed to resumption of North-South dialogue. This statement is a result of total ignorance of the reality. Rather, we are attentive to the fact that serious political problems, totally opposite to such phenomenon, will be brought about.

Furthermore, those who spread such public opinion describe the North-South dialogue, which is designed to resolve the nation's internal questions, as talks between certain two countries. Viewing this, we must think that they are pursuing different aims running counter to the aims of the North-South dialogue. We are concerned with the fact that this in the end will exercise very negative influence on the North-South dialogue.

We hope that all nations will not act harmfully, but practically to ensure that North-South dialogue in Korea will be successful, that national reunification will be achieved, and that Korea will greatly contribute to peace and security in the Pacific-Asian region and in the world in conformity with the international trend of detente.

DLP Blamed for Postponement

SK1907052290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 19 Jul 90

["South Korea's 'DLP' Is To Blame"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—The 11th Panmunjom meeting between parliamentarians of the North and the South for a joint parliamentary meeting slated today has been postponed for the time being. Responsibility for this rests entirely with the South Korean "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP), which committed a high-handed act at the "National Assembly", causing such a serious crisis as wholesale resignation of the opposition "assemblymen".

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a commentary.

The head of the North side's delegation to the Panmunjom meeting sent a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart, informing if that the 11th meeting could not but be postponed for the time being, the news analyst says, and continues:

The complicated situation created in the "National Assembly" after the total resignation of the opposition "assemblymen" has made our side, the other dialogue partner, feel disappointment and apprehensions. The head of the North side's delegation said he would inform the South side of the date of the next meeting in a proper time, following developments in the South Korean "National Assembly" for about one month. This is only natural.

In his telephone message on July 18, however, the chief delegate of the South side's delegation slandered us, saying that it is a "unilateral postponement". This can win nobody's sympathy and understanding.

If the "DLP" is truly interested in the smooth progress of the Panmunjom meeting, it must reconsider its acts, instead of accusing others, stop running the show alone in the "National Assembly" and cope with the crisis of the "National Assembly" so as to provide conditions for the resumption of talks.

There is no change in our stand to lead the meeting between North and South parliamentarians to success and usher in a new phase of peace and peaceful reunification. We will as ever make all sincere efforts to this end.

Reaction to ROK Assembly Upheaval Continues

DLP 'Group Violence' Decried

SK1907043980 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 19 Jul 90

["'Preach' of Fascist Tyrant"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u in his "preach" on the "law-abiding climate" at a "government"- sponsored function on July 16 at "Chongwadae" claimed that it was urgent to establish order at the "National Assembly" where "democratic procedures and practice should be respected," according to a report.

He was so crafty as to utter "regret" at the fact that the recent "extraordinary session of the National Assembly" failed to be operated through dialogue and compromise.

The 150th "extraordinary session of the National Assembly" was characterized by a monopoly show of the No Tae-u group. The "Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]" railroaded various "bills" in a moment in a brigandish way without due procedures of deliberation after elbowing out the opposition "assemblymen."

The "DLP" gangsters committed a group violence against the protesting opposition "assemblymen", heavily injuring some of them.

The blame for all this rests with the traitor No Tae-u.

Nevertheless, he dared to talk about "democratic procedures," "practice", "establishment of order at the National Assembly" and "regret." This only shows that he is a braze-faced fellow without an equal in the world.

Kim Yong-sam, DLP Denounced

SK1907045190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 19 Jul 90

["Sophism of Political Prostitute"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam, "chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]," at a press conference on July 16 turned down the demand of the opposition parties for dissolving the present "National Assembly" and holding "parliamentary elections" ahead of schedule, according to a report. He added that he refused an earlier "election" because it

would mean abandoning the "term of national assemblyman" set out in the "Constitution" and "duty assigned by the people."

This is a sophism of a dirty political prostitute to avoid the judgement of the people.

As far as the "duty" on his lips is concerned, the voters at the time of the April 1988 "parliamentary election" cast ballots for him and the then opposition "Democratic Party" bossed by him, wishing them to fight against the No Tae-u military fascist clique for the sake of independence, democracy and reunification, not asking them to commit treacheries in collusion with the military hooligans.

This notwithstanding, Kim Yong-sam and his clan for their promotion and personal pleasure crawled into the bed of the treacherous fascists through despicable political prostitution by betraying the people's will and revolting against the patriotic democratic forces. For this, they must be judged by the people.

Kim Yong-sun, WFTU Group Discuss 'Wall'

SK1807104490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly conversation with the fact-finding group of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] to inquire into the concrete wall headed by Jan Nemoudry, secretary of the WFTU.

Present on the occasion was Kim Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea.

Mass Pyongyang Meeting 'To Pull Down' 'Wall'

SK1807221190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1517 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—Pyongyangites met on July 18 to pull down the concrete wall in the area South of the military demarcation line and realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South.

Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, made a speech.

Recalling that the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, authorized by the joint meeting of the representatives of the government, political parties and organisations of the DPRK, made public on July 5 a statement clarifying DPRK's principled stand toward contact and travel between the North and the South and declaring the opening of the North side's portion of Panmunjom from August 15 to come, which is a measure to implement the five-point policy for national reunification, the speaker said:

The stumbling-block in the way of realising free- travel and complete opening between the North and the South for the present is the concrete wall built by the South Korean authorities.

With the concrete wall standing across the country, the people of all strata in the North and the South cannot freely visit, contact and come to an understanding nor achieve national reconciliation and unity and the reunification of the country.

If the South Korean authorities are truly interested in contact, travel and interchange between the North and the South and want the reunification of the country, they must give up their old idea of confrontation and make a resolute decision on pulling down the concrete wall.

If those who built the barrier of division refuse to tear it down, the whole nation should settle down to the demolition of the grudge-hearing concrete wall, the speaker said, stating:

With a view to launching a powerful nationwide movement to pull down the concrete wall, the symbol of the North- South confrontation and division, we, in the name of this mass meeting, propose to form North-South joint committee for the demolition of concrete wall with the representatives of all parties, groupings and strata in the North and the South. The formation of the committee would develop the struggle for removing the barrier of division into a more extensive movement embracing the whole nation.

In order to realise free travel and complete opening, it is imperative to tear down the concrete wall and renounce the anti-reunification fascist "National Security Law" in South Korea, the law which describes the fellow countrymen in the northern half of the country as "enemy" and its northern part as an "anti-state organisation", the speaker stressed.

Then, the floor was taken by representatives of various strata.

The meeting formed the the North side's committee of the North-South joint committee for the demolition of concrete wall with Chang Chol as chairman.

An appeal to the South Korean people was adopted at the meeting.

The appeal calls upon all the South Korean workers, peasants, students, youth and intellectuals to rise as one under the banner of national reunification and wage a valiant struggle to pull down the thrice-cursed concrete wall and abolish the "National Security Law", the anti-reunification fascist law, and further intensify the anti-U.S. struggle.

It expresses the expectation that all parties, groupings and people of all strata in South Korea will positively respond to the DPRK's initiative to form the "North-South joint committee for pressing the demolition of the concrete wall".

The meeting was attended by Vice-Premier Chang Chol and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party Yi Kye-pack and others.

DPRK-U.S. Talks for Peace Agreement Urged

SK1907113180 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-liner today urges the United States to come out to DPRK-U.S. talks or tripartite talks at an early date and respond to concluding a peace agreement to end the armistice if it truly hopes for detente and peace on the Korean peninsula and is ready to improve relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

To provide a sure guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula, the Korean Armistice Agreement must be replaced by a peace agreement, the article says, and goes on:

It is, first of all, a requirement of the tense situation created on the Korean peninsula.

Today a constant danger of war is hovering and tension is increasing on the Korean peninsula. The United States is entirely to blame for it.

If a war breaks out in Korea, it will inevitably turn to a nuclear war and that may put the dogs of nuclear war on the world people as well as the Korean people. Such nuclear holocaust can be warded off if the Armistice Agreement is replaced by a peace agreement.

The necessity of replacing the agreement with a peace agreement also emanates from its nature itself.

The present Korean Armistice Agreement is an agreement which does not guarantee peace.

And this agreement was reached, conditional on achieving a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, but no measure has been taken to guarantee a lasting peace up until now. Under this condition, to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is an urgent requirement of guaranteeing a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

The question of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement must be solved between the DPRK and the United States, the other belligerent party in the Korean war, an actual signatory to the Armistice Agreement and the very one who holds the real power capable of guaranteeing peace in Korea. DPRK-U.S. talks or tripartite talks between the DPRK, the United States and South Korea must be opened. Not once have we mentioned it.

The purpose of DPRK-proposed tripartite talks is to discuss and resolve the problems of improving relations between the two countries and replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement through the DPRK-U.S. talks and, at the same time, as a derivative matter of the above- said, to discuss the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the North and South.

The tripartite talks had once been mentioned by the United States, too. There is no reason why the United States should not sit together with us who pose no threat to it but want peace and reunification.

If we and the United States sit together to remove the hostile relations and sign a peace agreement and thus peace on the Korean peninsula is guaranteed, it will be beneficial to the United States, too, not harmful in any way.

Report on U.S.-ROK Joint 'Strike Exercises'

SK1807222590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2224 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought nuclear-capable F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers from their overseas bases in the Pacific region to the sky above Anmyon Island on July 14 and 15, and staged joint strike exercises to increase their actual combat capability in case of emergency in cooperation with formations of F-16 fighter- bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce present in South Korea, according to military sources.

From 12 hours to 14 hours of July 16, they deployed formations of F-15 fighter-bombers and A-6 assault planes from the Iwakuni Base and the Kadena [Air] Base in Okinawa, Japan to the Osan Airforce Base and sent them to the sky above Oeyon Island and Sangdong and Nonsan areas to frantically stage an air strike exercise simulating a surprise attack on the targets in the strategic depth and the coastal areas of the northern half of Korea, in league with formations of F-16, F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet Airforce.

At around 12-17 hours of that day, they sent two Guam-based KC-135 refueling planes to the Osan Airforce Base, and staged an exercise of refueling various types of planes including F-16 fighter-bombers, OA-10 airborne warning and control plane and RF-4 reconnaissance plane belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce in the sky above the west coastal area.

The U.S. imperialists brought formations of C-141 transport planes carrying special forces and combat materials from the Yokoda base in Japan to the Osan Airforce Base from 7 hours to 8 hours, from 12 hours to 13 hours of July 14 and 15.

And they mobilized E-3 early warning plane from in the Kadena [Air] Base in Okinawa to the sky above the area near the military demarcation line at 09:50 of July 16 and let it make a long-hour shuttle flight from the east to the west till 17:06, commanding the planes in the war exercises and conducting an electronic espionage on the ground and air targets of the northern half of Korea.

Papers Decry U.S. Nuclear Policy on Peninsula

SK1907053090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. administration intends to go ahead with the modernization of reactors and nuclear plants so as to turn out new nuclear bombs till the mid 21st century and replace the existing tens of thousands of nuclear bombs with "newer" ones, according to a report.

This is the topic of a NODONG SINMUN commentary today, which says:

This nuclear arms modernization plan of the U.S. imperialists tells that they intend to continue developing new nuclear weapons behind the facade of "nuclear disarmament" and invariably follow the policy of strength for overpowering the socialist forces.

This shows that their talk about "disarmament" and "detente" is nothing but a humbug to deceive the people and disarm the socialist countries.

Recalling that the U.S. imperialists have deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea and are continually replacing the old nuclear weapons with new ones, the news analyst goes on:

This suggests that newly-produced nuclear weapons may be deployed in South [and] war will grow all the more on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists, who are increasing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, have the audacity to claim that we should sign a safeguard agreement under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The U.S. imperialists now talk as if they would not use nuclear weapons, clamouring about an "end to the era of the cold war." This is a whopping lie and a mockery of public opinion at home and abroad. Imperialism would never lay down arms of its own accord, much less give up aggression and war. Only through a vigorous anti-war, anti-nuke struggle can the world's peaceloving people check and frustrate the imperialists' policy of aggression and war.

The U.S. imperialists must stop following the anachronistic line of showdown of strength which runs counter to the world people's desire for peace, stresses MINJU CHOSON in a commentary, warning: Those who are fond of playing with fire are bound to be burnt to death.

Soviet Embassy on Conclusion of CPSU Congress

SK1807104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—The Soviet Embassy here today held a press conference with reporters of Korea and other countries in connection with the conclusion of the 28th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Boris Morozov, charge d' affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy here, briefed the reporters on the process of the 28th Congress of the CPSU and its result.

Then he answered the questions put by the reporters as to the prospect of the development of the situation in the Soviet Union after the party congress and its characteristics.

Soviet 'Marathon Squad' Arrives in Pyongyang

SK1807221990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1530 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—A Soviet Amur regional marathon squad for supporting the Korean people's struggle for the demolition of the concrete wall and free travel and complete opening between the North and the South arrived here today.

When the members of the marathon squad led by Valeriy Voloshin, secretary of the Tynda City, Amur region, committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, arrived at Pyongyang railway station, wearing sashes written "Korea is one" over their shoulders, a crowd of people warmly welcomed them. Then followed a march of the squad members.

The Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society gave a reception for the squad in the evening.

DPRK, USSR Produce New Joint Feature Film

SK1707215490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 17 (KCNA)—A new Korean-Soviet joint feature film "Shore of Rescue" has been released.

It was jointly produced by moviemen of the Wolmido production team of the Korean February 8 Film Studio and the Mir production team of the Soviet Gorkiy Film Studio.

The film is set against the period of the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War.

The film begins with the scene showing five Russian sailors tossed by waves ashore in Korea after their warship sank in the nearby strait.

They trudge, feeling uneasy and lonesome, and unexpectedly encounter an exhumation group of scores of Japanese who infiltrated into Korea to rob her of cultural properties.

At this critical moment, Korean girl Poramae shows up to join Russian sailors.

The sailors, in cooperation with young Koreans including Poramae, succeed in wiping out the Japanese robbers before returning home.

The film vividly represents ardent patriotism, bravery and warm love of humanity of the Korean people.

The audience will be undoubtedly moved by the resourcefulness, courage and warm love of humanity displayed by the young Koreans in the battle to protect the cultural relics of the country and in the fight to rescue the Russian sailors from the hands of Japanese robbers.

Especially, the well-known taekwondo and fencing technique of Korea will deeply impress the audience.

The heroine Poramae, master of taekwondo, (played by Yi Sol-hui) and her boy friend Yu Chun (played by Yi Yong-ho) are popular stars these years.

The film vividly depicts the true obligation and heroism of Russian sailors.

The scenario was jointly produced by the writers of the two countries, on the Korean side Yi Chin-u, labour hero of the DPRK, and on the Soviet side A. Timm and A. Dashiev.

It is jointly directed by Korean people's artist Yu Ho-son, a member of the jury of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and Soviet director A. Dashiev.

O Chin-u Greets New Polish Defense Minister

SK1807044690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
6431 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of people's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk upon his appointment as minister of national defence of the Polish Republic.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two Armies will develop favourably in the future.

Group to Burkina Faso; Peruvian Envoy Arrives

SK1807104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1022 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Korea- Africa Friendship Association and the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People led by Vice-Chairman Pak Tong-chun left here today to visit Burkina Faso. [passage omitted]

The first Peruvian Ambassador E.P. to Korea Roberto Villaran Koechlin arrived here on July 17.

Kang Sok-chu Meets 'First Peruvian Ambassador'

SK1907051490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0456 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, met and had a conversation with the first Peruvian Ambassador E.P. to Korea Roberto Villaran Koechlin who paid a courtesy call on him on July 18.

Cuban Envoy Attends Photo Exhibit, Film Show

SK1907050690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—A photo exhibition and a film show were held here on July 18 on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the July 26 armed uprising of the Cuban people.

Present there were Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Cho Hyon-hwa, vice-chairman of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

Invited there were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials.

Speeches were exchanged at an opening ceremony of the photo exhibition.

Then, the participants saw the pictures showing the achievements made by the Cuban people in politics, economy, culture and other domains after the victory of the revolution.

They appreciated a Cuban feature film.

Meeting at Combine To Mark Egypt's Revolution

SK1807221790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1528 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—A friendly meeting with the embassy officials of the Arab Republic of Egypt here was held today at the Korea-Egypt Friendship Pyongyang Textile Combine on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the July 23 revolution of the Egyptian people.

Invited there were Bahjat Ibrahim Disuqi, Egyptian ambassador to Korea, and his embassy officials.

Hong Il-chon, vice-minister of general education who is vice-chairwoman of the Korea-Egypt Friendship Association, officials concerned and employees of the combine were present at the meeting.

The meeting proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Before the meeting the guests were shown round major production processes of the combine.

New Ambassador to Algeria Presents Credentials

SK1807043890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid voiced support to the Korean people's cause of reunification when he received credentials from newly-appointed DPRK Ambassador E.P. to his country Kim Chang-yong.

Noting that the stand of Algeria supporting the reunification of Korea will remain unchanged, he stressed that Algeria will in the future make all possible efforts in support of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Stating that the friendly and cooperative relations between Algeria and Korea are fraternal relations which have been consolidated and developed with an old historical root, he said that the Algerian people do not forget the Korean people who assisted them in every way during the difficult national liberation struggle.

Sierra Leone President Meets SPA Delegation

SK1907044890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 19 (KCNA)—Sierra Leonean President J. [Joseph] S. Momoh expressed satisfaction with the favourable development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Sierra Leone and Korea and said that Sierra Leone will make active efforts to further develop these relations when he met a delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] led by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of its Standing Committee on July 16.

He expressed support to the DPRK's stand on national reunification and admission into the United Nations.

Yi Chong-ok Speaks at Degrees, Titles Ceremony

SK1807045890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—A ceremony for conferring degrees and titles of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Tuesday.

50 persons who performed distinguished exploits in scientific researches and training of native cadres were awarded professorship and doctorate, according to a decision of the state commission for conferring degrees and titles.

Speaking at the ceremony, Yi Chong-ok, vice-president and chairman of the commission, said that many persons in various domains were conferred degrees and titles this time thanks to the care of the Workers' Party of Korea and a step has been taken for providing social privileges to the recipients of academic degrees and titles.

They should effect a new turn in developing the science and technology of the country, he noted.

Those who made a great contribution to developing science and technology of the country and training native cadres were awarded diplomas of professors, doctors, associate professors and associate doctors and medals of doctors at the ceremony.

Certificates in the name of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK were conferred to the academicians, candidate academicians, professors and doctors.

KCNA Says Pyongyang Construction 'Stepped Up'

SK1807220190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1507 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 18 (KCNA)—The construction of the capital is being stepped up at a fast tempo to build apartment houses for 50,000 families by the end of 1991 in Korea.

The construction to render Pyongyang more grandiose and beautiful and provide the working people with better living conditions is under way amid the great attention of the whole nation.

Over the past six months or more the builders of the capital finished the construction of some 3,700 flats and brought the construction of more than 16,000 flats to its final stage.

They have also built several schools and public service establishments and are nearing the completion of many creches and kindergartens.

They have finished the pre-fab assembling for some 2,000 housing units whose construction began this year.

High-storied and ultrahigh-storied apartment houses each for hundreds or thousands of families are springing up one after another on both sides of Tongil Street 4 kilometres long and 120 metres wide, on the bank of the River Taedong in the southern part of the capital.

Now the boulevard taking distinct shape after blowing up several hills that lay in the way of construction reminds one of a rising city.

Apartment houses for 20,000 families will be built by the end of 1991 and those for tens of thousands of families under the long-term plan in the street where the construction is now under way in 8 blocks.

Those who are building flats for 10,000 families in the second stage of Kwangbok Street finished the pre-fab assembling for 25- and 30-storied apartment houses each with hundreds of flats in the past six months or more.

Signal successes are also reported in the construction of dwelling houses in different parts of the capital including Sokbong-dong area, the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant, the Three-Revolution Exhibition Hall and a depositing reservoir.

Korea is meeting by itself the demands for a huge amount of materials and equipment including millions of tons of cement, hundreds of thousands of tons of steel and hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of timber.

South Korea

Decision To Normalize Relations With USSR

Inter-Ministerial Consultations

SK1907061180 Seoul YONHAP in English 0539 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union are expected to agree to normalize diplomatic ties in October and sign the accord at a summit meeting in Moscow later this year or early next year, a high-ranking government official said Thursday.

The two nations are also near agreement that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Seoul before or after his trip to Japan next year, the official said.

The Soviet and Korean foreign ministers may meet in the United Nations in September or October to wrap up negotiations on full diplomatic relations before President No Tae-u travels to the Soviet Union for his second summit with Gorbachev, the official said, refusing to be named.

No has received a letter from Gorbachev, who proposed Korea send a delegation to discuss promotion of bilateral ties, in answer to a similar letter from No on June 9, five days after they met in San Francisco and agreed in principle to normalize diplomatic ties.

"The exchange of letters between the two heads of state and the agreement on starting negotiations is seen as evidence that normalization of diplomatic ties this year is possible," he said.

He said deep discussions are under way between the two nations through diplomatic channels on early normalization of diplomatic ties as well as practical ways of promoting economic exchange and cooperation.

"It is predicted that exchange visits by the heads of state will take place in the near future as the two leaders share the view that stability can be ensured and peace be settled on the Korean peninsula through improved ties between Seoul and Moscow and between Seoul and Pyongyang," the official said.

"If a second summit meeting between No and Gorbachev is realized, it could have a very positive impact on inter-Korean relations as well as relations between Seoul and Beijing," he said.

The official said Seoul is conducting inter-ministerial consultations on the possibility of offering loans to the Soviet Union to substantially promote economic exchange.

"There have been no concrete discussions between the two countries on the scale of the loans, but it is expected to be discussed in the negotiations in August," he said.

He hinted the government is considering providing loans within its ability, based on reciprocity, but declined to elaborate.

The government, in consideration of the economic problems facing the Soviet Union, is considering offering about 3 billion U.S. dollars in loans, another government source said.

Moscow Agrees on Ties by Oct

SK1907103380 Seoul YONHAP in English 1022 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—The Governments of South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle on the need to normalize mutual relations by October this year and have another meeting between their top leaders in Moscow by early next year, a ranking South Korean Government official said Thursday.

The Soviet Government has also shown favorable response to South Korea's wish to invite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Seoul before or after his state visit to Japan, slated between March and May next year, it was also said.

The official said a basic accord has been reached between Seoul and Moscow that the signing of full diplomatic ties be made in a foreign ministers meeting which may be held in Moscow or at the U.N. Headquarters in September or October.

The official, who refused to be identified, attached importance to recent exchanges of personal letters between summits of the two countries, saying, "It attests to the possibility that diplomatic ties between the two countries might have come to become a matter of foreseeable future."

Touching on possible exchange of summit visits, he said, "it would be realized in the not distant future considering that the two leaders share identical views with regard not only to economic cooperation but also to devices to relax tension in the Korean peninsula and settle stability and peace in the Far Eastern region."

The official predicted that another round of No-Gorbachev meeting, if realized as anticipated, would have a "very favorable impact" not only on the inter-Korean relations but also on South Korea's bid to improve relations with China.

Touching on economic cooperation between Seoul and Moscow, the official said the two countries are yet to have practical and concrete discussion to determine the scope of mutual economic cooperation. "Those discussions are likely to be made in the course of negotiations for establishment of diplomatic ties slated to start early next month," said the official.

Meanwhile, other informed sources said the South Korean Government is considering providing 3 billion U.S. dollars of official loans to the Soviet Union as well as pushing ahead with a plan to promote a 10 billion dollars civilian-level economic exchange program, comprising joint-venture investments or counter-purchase deals.

Seoul Forms Delegation

SK1907130590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1255 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has formed an official delegation to be sent to Moscow at the request of the Soviet Government, it was learned Thursday.

The delegation, which is expected to leave here on around August 4, is to be headed by Kim Chong-in, top presidential economic aide, government sources said. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev recently sent a letter to South Korean President No Tae-u, asking him to send a mission to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

Delegation members comprise Kim Chong-hwi, presidential adviser on national security and diplomacy, Ambassador Kong No-myong, head of the Korea's Consular Department in Moscow, Yi Chung-pin, first assistant foreign minister, Kim In-ho, director of the International Economic Policy Coordination Office at the Economic Planning Board (EPB), and Yi Sang-chol, head of the East European Affairs Section of the Foreign Ministry.

Some working-level officials from the Presidential Office, Chongwadae, the EPB and the Foreign Ministry are to be included in the delegation.

The Korean Government has reportedly decided to seek to put final touches to the proposed agreements on investment protection and prevention of double taxation.

Dispatch of Delegation Viewed

SK1907002390 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Jul 90 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] The revelation of Gorbachev's reply to President No Tae-u's letter might have been timed to coincide with a meeting of opposition leaders in a bid to downplay their agreement to stage a campaign for an early general election in protest against the ruling camp's railroading of bills in the recent Assembly session.

The announcement of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's letter came about 30 minutes after the Kim-Yi talk.

Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Chong-pin, who commands working-level negotiations with Moscow, complained about Chongwadae's abrupt announcement concerning the dispatch of a government mission to the Soviet Union.

"What we have now agreed are that the first formal negotiation will be held in Moscow and that our mission will be sent early next month led by a ministerial-level official.

"All other questions including the size and the composition of the mission have yet to be decided on. I am just giving you background briefing as I've just heard the Chongwadae announcement," he said.

Asked whether Chongwadae consulted with the Foreign Ministry about the matter of revealing the letter, he said. "They revealed it (without consulting with us) because it was addressed to President No."

Planned Economic Exchanges

SK1907031890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea, in preparation for government-level negotiations in Moscow early next month on establishing diplomatic ties, is drafting plans to promote economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The plans cover trade, joint ventures, development of natural resources by Korean firms, loans and the signing of investment protection and prevention of double taxation accords, a senior government official who refused to be identified said Thursday.

President No Tae-u received a letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who proposed government-level talks on economic cooperation, on Wednesday.

The Korean Government will send a team headed by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for Economic Affairs, to Moscow in early August and expects to discuss normalizing diplomatic ties in their first minister-level negotiations in history.

It will positively consider selling Moscow more consumer goods or setting up joint ventures to produce consumer goods in the Soviet Union if requested, he said.

Korea, if it is asked to, may grant loans to the Soviet Union on a "forward-looking basis within the limit of its ability," the official said.

The government may ask the Soviet Union to allow Korean firms to remit earnings from joint ventures in the Soviet Union in hard currency, and if Moscow opposes hard-currency remittance, it may propose payment in raw materials, he said.

The two sides are expected to discuss establishing a Korea trade center in Moscow and guaranteeing the activities of Korean businessmen in the Soviet Union, he added.

Soviets Ask for Investments in Chemical Industry

SK1907033490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—Soviet officials have appealed for South Korean investment to help rebuild their aging and dilapidated petrochemical industry, a group of Korean businessmen said Thursday.

The group, which recently completed a 10-day trip to the Soviet Union and Hungary, told reporters the officials had urged them to invest in the Soviet petrochemical industry, which needs to replace old production facilities and is short of capital.

The Soviets, however, failed to provide data or name specific areas for Korean investment, the businessmen said, and there was no agreement on cooperation in the chemical industry.

But the Soviet officials said, in principle, that cooperation would be possible if Korean capital and Soviet raw materials and technology were combined.

Soviet Officials Agree on Direct Shipping Route

SK1807134790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1210 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean and Soviet maritime officials have agreed to open a direct shipping route between Pusan and Vostochnyy as early as mid-October.

The officials wrapped up a three-day meeting here after agreeing that the operation of the route be jointly managed by a company to be set up by two South Korean companies—Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. and Chunkyung Shipping Co.—and the Soviet Union's Far East Shipping Co. (FESCO), officials at the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said.

The joint operators will be authorized to handle all liner cargoes between Pusan and Vostochnyy in view of the probable shortage of cargo at the outset, it was also said.

The negotiators, however, failed to decide which side's freighter they would commission on the route at the initial stage as they did not back down from their wishes to use their own vessel first. They agreed to turn over the issue to a working-level meeting between concerned lines slated for Thursday.

The two sides earlier agreed to commission one weekly service with a ship of 400 teu (twenty-foot equivalent units) to 600 teu.

In the third meeting, South Korea refused to accept the Soviet proposal that Soviet ships be allowed to serve third countries via South Korea. The Korean side reportedly proposed, in return, to expand the regular service to third countries on a gradual basis.

The two nations agreed to open a direct sea route in the first maritime consultation talks in Seoul in December 1988.

Soviet Scholar Reexamines Causes of Korean War

SK1907000490 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 Jul 90 p 8

["Special contribution" to CHUNGANG ILBO via NOVOSTI by Georgiy Kunadze, director of the Korea and Japan Department of the World Economics and International Relations Institute: ""Korean War Started With Southward Aggression""]

[Text] The 40th anniversary of the Korean war was marked on 25 June. When I look back on the past 40 years, I see that habitual carefulness prevailed during this period. This attitude prevailed during the Khrushchev era, and disappeared during the Brezhnev era.

Because of excessive silence and the control of information, the Soviets even think that there was no Korean war.

A while ago, I read an article on the Korean war in my son's school textbook. The description was very brief. It said: After South Korea prepared for war, the war finally broke out on 25 June 1950. This truly is a "1984"-style lie that conceals the truth and forces people to believe in fabricated falsehoods. However, we are living in a completely open new era when reexamining our own past.

In this respect, it is very natural that we reexamine the Korean war in an effort to examine the true meaning of this war and its significance.

It is certain that this war, which claimed the lives of more than a million people, will be remembered as one of the most disastrous tragedies in the late 20th century.

It is also clear that it will be very difficult for future historians to inquire into the true state of affairs of the Korean war.

I personally doubt whether any assessment is possible.

This is because a great deal of data that can tell the actual state of affairs of the Korean war has disappeared and because the content of much of the remaining data has been distorted.

The Korean war is a thing of the past.

However, the war itself still affects the situation on the Korean Peninsula and its surrounding territory.

Therefore, we have two tasks. One, we must correctly reassess this war from historic perspectives; and two,

based upon this new assessment, we must provide realistic alternative plans to resolve international political affairs in the future.

This is why we must inquire into the true state of affairs of the Korean war at this time. When we correctly perceive the true state of affairs, we will be able to learn a lesson from the war.

Despite our persistent propaganda offensives, it has been disclosed that the Korean war broke out because of North Korea's aggression.

I doubt whether I can formally prove my assertion. Still, this is not a matter that can be judged in a court.

Therefore, I will elaborate on the political situation at that time, not on which side was legally responsible for the Korean war. If South Korea had deliberately provoked the war by preparing for a long time, why did it retreat over and over again after suffering defeats at the outset of the war?

We cannot explain this logically. Let us put aside legal responsibility.

A memoir of Khrushchev, who was dishonorably expelled from power a long time ago, was published in the West in 1970.

However, after having ignored the existence of this book, which is of great historical significance, we began to take a look at it only recently.

In his memoir, Khrushchev frankly admits that the Korean war broke out because of North Korea's preplanned scenario.

In his book, while enumerating facts, Khrushchev describes how Kim Il-song discussed with Stalin in Moscow in late 1949 ways to "liberate South Korea".

We can easily understand the fact that Khrushchev asserted, that Stalin, from his "belief as a communist," did not oppose Kim Il-song's opinion at that time.

At that time, even while approving armed aggression in principle on the one hand, Stalin advised Kim Il-song, on the other, to be prudent in finding the best opportunity.

When Kim Il-song again visited Moscow, Stalin finally gave him his "blessing".

In his memoir, Khrushchev writes: "The hour of destiny came, and the war broke out. Attacks successfully proceeded, and the North Korean troops were pushing southward at a rapid speed."

The detente of the early seventies was characterized by an unstable balance between ideological "beliefs" and political "calculations."

That is why controversies on detente continued ceaselessly at that time and why it disappeared shortly thereafter.

Another important lesson that we must learn from the detente of the early seventies is that unless all the countries on earth firmly maintain the universal human values of democracy and freedom, they will never be able to achieve lasting peace and genuine prosperity.

As long as "revolutionary logic," which provoked the Korean war, is restricted only by scrupulous calculations on the "attendant dangers," and as long as such logic exists everywhere in the world, security for mankind cannot be ensured.

Moreover, it is more than likely that these calculations on the dangers may prove to be incorrect. In learning a lesson from the sad history of the Korean war, we must promote a global civilization devoid of vengeance.

No To Speak on Inter-Korean Relations 20 Jul

SK1907073090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u will make a special announcement Friday morning on inter-Korean relations, Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chong said Thursday.

"No's announcement, which will be broadcast live on radio and television at 8 A.M., will be on inter-Korean ties, but the contents cannot be disclosed in advance," Yi said.

Kim Chong-hwi, presidential adviser on national security and diplomacy, said, "No's announcement will be a declaration that takes a step forward."

State To Cooperate on Tokyo-Beijing Air Route

SK1807134990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1238 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—A top South Korean Government official said Wednesday that South Korea is ready to cooperate with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in its bid to open an air route linking Tokyo with Beijing via the Korean air space.

Transportation Minister Kim Chang-sik told visiting ICAO director Assad Kotaite that the Korean Government has no reason to oppose the route on conditions that the nations concerned agree and safety of flight services on the route is guaranteed.

Kotaite arrived in Seoul on Tuesday to collect information needed for the final decision on the short-cut air route.

In the meeting, Kim expressed his hope that the ICAO make its positive efforts to help realize South Korea's wish to open a direct air route between Seoul and Beijing.

Kotaite, who will fly over to Japan around this weekend and then to North Korea via China, is on a Far Eastern

tour to sound governments of the regional countries about the planned establishment of a Tokyo-Beijing route through the Korean air space within this month.

If the route is realized, the six airlines flying between Tokyo and Shanghai and Beijing around the Southern tip of South Korea will save 40 minutes, cutting the flight time to three hours and 20 minutes.

The airlines, which run 36 flights a week, are Civil Aviation Administration of China, Japan Air Lines, Iran Air, All Nippon Airways, Pakistan Airline and United Airlines.

Prime Minister Kang Arrives in Ireland

SK1907002190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun arrived in Dublin yesterday on the first leg of his three-nation European tour, an official of the Prime Minister's Office said.

The prime minister, in Dublin, signed an agreement on investment protection between Korea and Ireland and had talks with administration and parliamentary leaders of the country including Foreign Minister Gerard Collins.

Kang also attended a dinner hosted by his Irish counterpart Charles J. Haughey in the evening, the official said.

The prime minister will leave Dublin Friday after meeting President Patrick Hillery and observing cultural sites in the country.

He is to arrive in Brussels, the second leg of his tour, Monday by way of Zurich.

Irish View on UN Membership

SK1907022390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Dublin, Ireland, July 18 (YONHAP)—The prime ministers of South Korea and Ireland agreed Wednesday to cooperate on such matters as Korea's entry to the United Nations, cooperation with the European Community [EC] and the opening of North Korea.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey and Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun also signed a double taxation avoidance agreement.

Kang arrived here Wednesday on the first leg of a three-nation tour that will also take him to Belgium and Turkey.

He urged the Irish Government to ensure integration does not make the European Community protectionist and Haughey said he would positively push a free trade policy for the EC.

The Korean leader asked the Irish leader to help Korea win EC support for U.N. membership and to persuade China, one of the five standing members of the Security Council, not to veto the Korean application.

Kang hinted that Korea would seek U.N. membership in the fall unless the issue is settled in his talks with the prime minister of North Korea in September.

Kang asked Irish support to open North Korea. He told Haughey that although Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed willingness to urge North Korea to open, Moscow still supplies weapons to Pyongyang.

Haughey said Ireland thinks the function of the United Nations would be strengthened by admitting all the nations of the world and he would fully support Seoul's bid to join the world body.

Haughey said he hopes many Korean businesses will invest in Ireland, which he said has stable conditions for investment.

Kang is scheduled to arrive in Brussels on Monday by way of Zurich for talks with Belgian and EC leaders.

Envoys Named for Peru, Colombia Inaugurations

SK1907052190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—Former Prime Minister No Sin-yong will represent the South Korean Government at presidential inaugurations in Peru and Colombia on July 28 and Aug. 7, respectively, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

No will relay President No Tae-u's congratulations to President Alberto Fujimori of Peru and President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia.

He will also exchange views on bilateral cooperation with government officials of the two South American nations.

State Allows Foreign Banks To Open Branches

SK1907023190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—The government will allow banks from Japan, Singapore, France and the Netherlands to open five branches and five representative offices in Korea this year, officials at the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The branches will be opened by Singapore's Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. (OCBC), Japan's Long-Term Credit Bank and Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., the Netherlands' NMB [Nederlandsche Middenstands Bank] and NV [Naamloze Venootscha], and France's Credit Lyonnais. Credit Lyonnais will open its branch in the port city of Inchon and the others in Seoul.

Branches can engage in business but offices cannot.

The first five banks landed in Korea in 1967 and the figure grew very slowly until the 1970s. There are now 67 branches and 22 offices of foreign banks in Korea.

Some financial experts say the government's decision to allow additional branches is aimed at mollifying the mounting pressure to further open the financial market, but ministry officials denied that view.

"We usually follow a one-to-one policy in regard to the operation of foreign banks here. This means we allow them to open as many branches as their governments allow Korean banks to open in their countries," a ministry official said.

Opposition Parties Plan Alliance Against No

SK1907022590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Leaders of two South Korean opposition parties and a dissident political group will meet Friday to discuss forming a powerful alliance against the government of President No Tae-u.

Rep. Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), Rep. Yi Ki-taek, president of the Democratic Party, and the Rev. Kim Kwan-suk, a representative of the Council for the Promotion of an Integrated Opposition Party, are likely to agree in principle to create a unified opposition party by merging their political groups and form a working-level body to discuss procedures, a spokesman said.

He said it is uncertain if the three will be able to build an opposition alliance as they have striking differences over the conditions, especially the leadership format.

The meeting follows an agreement Wednesday between the PPD head and Yi to become allies in an all-out struggle against the ruling camp.

The move toward an alliance was triggered by the ruling party's irregular passage of controversial bills, which were strongly opposed, through a National Assembly plenary session on Saturday.

The PPD has called a mass rally Saturday in a Seoul park to denounce the ruling party's "tyranny."

The rally is expected to be the biggest since the merger of the ruling party and two opposition parties into the Democratic Liberal Party in February in an unprecedented political realignment, which the opposition said was a political deal in defiance of the people's will.

Military Officials Suspected of Bribery

SK1907072690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0632 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—Three officials of the Military Manpower Administration (MMA) are under investigation on suspicion of taking bribes from people seeking exemption from military service, the Defense Ministry said Thursday.

They are Yi Chun-hui, deputy administrator, Yi Un-chae, director of the general administration section, and Song Tae-kap, a clerk at the Suwon branch of the MMA whose whereabouts are currently unknown, the ministry said.

The investigation started shortly after the presidential task force for social purification handed materials to the ministry on Monday, he said.

The officials are suspected of fabricating documents and exempting young men from conscription after receiving money from their parents.

The spokesman said the ministry would file legal charges against the officials if the on-going probe warranted it.

Former President Yun Po-sun Dies 18 Jul

SK1807135190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1244 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—Former South Korean President Yun Po-sun died at his home late Wednesday evening. Yun served as president of the Second Republic over the period 1960-1961.

Government Prepares for Impact of Market Opening

SK1807071890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—With less than six months left before the deadline for settlement of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, South Korea will try to minimize the impact settlement may have on the opening of its markets by overhauling economic policies and operations.

In the agricultural sector, considered most vulnerable to the post-Uruguay Round, the government will shift its policy of price support for some items to a policy of welfare for the farmers affected and reshaping the agricultural structure in the country.

President No Tae-u heard Tuesday morning from his ministers that opening Korean markets in every field is inevitable with the progress of the Uruguay Round and will deal a blow to some weak companies but it will also ease trade friction.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun and other economic ministers suggested export support systems be improved and agricultural policy changed from direct price support to restructuring agriculture.

No ordered the participants to thoroughly prepare for the end of the Uruguay Round, saying it would have an enormous impact on the Korean economy.

He told Yi and the agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister to take steps to fully cope with the opening of the agro-fisheries market, a very sensitive political and social issue directly tied to the livelihood of farmers and fishermen.

They said the current supports, including a dual-price system for staple grains and soft-loans for farmers, would have to be changed.

To protect farmers, the government will try to win a long grace period for reshaping the agricultural industry and have some grains excluded from the list for import liberalization.

Foreign minister Choe Ho-chung and Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, also attended the meeting at Chongwadae, the presidential office.

The government plans to reshape agriculture by 1997.

The ministers reported that Korea is able to allow the opening of branches of all kinds of foreign financial institutions in principle and grant them the same treatment as Korean ones.

They said the government will undertake gradual liberalization of the financial market up to the limit the Korean economy can accept while promoting the competitiveness of Korea's financial industry and gradual internationalization.

The Uruguay Round will help the Korean construction industry make inroads into advanced countries, including the United States and Japan, the ministers told No.

The government will boost construction exports and try to remove import barriers by developed nations in the field of construction.

The Uruguay Round is expected to change global textile trading and the domestic textile industry should be changed, they said.

Because textile exports are threatened by other developing countries, the government will enhance their competitiveness by raising quality and developing new designs and patterns under a seven-year textile industry reshaping plan.

The government will help the communications industry cope with the opening of the communications market and develop the information-communications industry, they said.

Shipping Industry To Experience 'Slight Slump'

SK1807010690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Jul 90 p 8

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Excerpt] Domestic shipping industry, which has enjoyed prosperity since 1988, is expected to experience a slight slump from the latter half of this year through 1991.

This is mainly because of forecast slower world economic growth, a probable bumper grain harvest in the Soviet Union and expansion of vessel fleets in both liner and irregular shipping.

In particular, the liner shipping fleet is expected to record a severe surplus in world market as most existing lines have put larger-sized container vessels in although the trade volume has seen slower growth due to weakened import demand by major industrialized nations.

The irregular shipping sector is expected to be affected severely by a probable bumper crop in the Soviet Union which is the largest grain import nation.

Reflecting this, the general freight index of the London-based Maritime Research Institute marked 236.6 points last week, down 5.4 points from the previous week and 35.8 from a year earlier.

The margin dropped further to 61.3 compared to the end of last year and 45.7 from the end of 1988.

As a result, freight charges for a 52,000-ton bulk carrier was $^7.25 per ton of grain from the U.S. eastern gulf to Japan last week, down from $26.75 at the end of last year.

A fellow of the state-run Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) said that there are several domestic container lines suffering operation losses and bulk carriers have faced severe uncertainty in freight rate.

The aggravated current account deficit, stronger protectionist moves of advanced countries, high wage costs and galloping inflation rate are expected to further put domestic shipping industry in a slump, the fellow said in a report on the world shipping outlook for 1990-91.

The KMI forecast that the world economy will grow 2.6 percent this year, slightly lower than the 3 percent estimated last year, due to slower growth in private consumption and facility investment but will recover to a 3.2 percent growth in 1991.

As a result, the world trade volume will remain at a growth rate of 6.6-5.8 percent in 1990-91 compared to a 7.2 percent surge in 1989.

In the shipping environment, the European Community (EC) is sure to strengthen protectionism after the integration of the European market slated for the end of 1992.

Two socialist giants—the Soviet Union and China—have undertaken modernization of shipping actively, while expanding their merchant vessel fleets as a result of liberalization of their shipping industry. [passage omitted]

Burma

Phone Myint, Others Observe 43d Martyrs' Day

BK1907083590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0630 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The 1990, 43d anniversary of Martyrs' Day was observed at a ceremony held at the Martyrs Mausoleum in Yangon [Rangoon] at 0800 today. On behalf of the chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], Lieutenant General Phone Myint, member of the SLORC, chairman of the 43d anniversary Martyrs' Day Observance Committee, and minister for culture, information, and home and religious affairs; laid wreaths at the tombs of national leader General Aung San and other martyrs. He also saluted and paid his respects at the ceremony this morning.

Also present at the occasion were vice chairman of the 43d anniversary Martyrs' Day Observance Committee, commander Major General Myo Nyunt, the Chief Justice U Aung Toe, the Attorney General U Tha Tun, the Auditor General U Khin Zaw, the secretary of the Observance Committee, managing director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Nyunt, and committee members, executive committee members, chairmen and members of the subcommittees, responsible personnel of the Armed Forces and the People's Police Force. [passage omitted]

The families of the martyrs laid wreaths at the respective martyrs' tombs and paid their respects. Diplomatic missions of the various embassies and representatives from U.N. organizations in Yangon also laid wreaths and paid their respects to the martyrs. [passage omitted]

NLD Calls Off Martyrs' Day March in Rangoon

BK1907032490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Bangkok, July 19 (AFP)—Burma's main opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) Party has cancelled a march in Rangoon planned for Thursday, diplomats and residents contacted from here said.

A plan to organise in the streets of the capital a march to commemorate Martyrs' Day, the anniversary of the July 19, 1947 murder of Burma's independence hero General Aung San, was abandoned by the NLD leadership for fear of incidents, the sources said.

NLD sources said Tuesday the party planned a procession for Martyrs' Day in the capital city of three million, as well as religious ceremonies at its various township headquarters, where food alms were to be offered to Buddhist monks.

The NLD, whose charismatic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Gen. Aung San, has been put under house arrest by Rangoon's military government, swept general elections held in Burma in late May. But the junta has shown no signs of preparing itself to transfer power, leading to increasing tension in Rangoon.

Diplomats and residents said, however, that the situation was quiet Thursday morning in Rangoon where they reported a heavy military presence.

AFP Reports Students Demonstrate in Rangoon

BK1807124490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Rangoon, July 18 (AFP)—Burmese students demonstrated here on Tuesday, handing out leaflets that demanded an immediate transfer of power to the main pro-democracy party and the release of political detainees, eyewitnesses said. The high school students, who numbered about 30, quickly dispersed when three truckloads of troops arrived.

They called on the ruling military junta to hand over power to the National League for Democracy (NLD), which swept May general elections, and to free NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for almost a year.

Student sources said further snap demonstrations may be staged as the city prepares for Thursday's Martyrs' Day celebrations honoring Burma's independence hero General Aung San, the NLD leader's father who was murdered in 1947.

Several side street shops started to close when the demonstrations began but promptly reopened when the situation returned to normal, the eyewitnesses said. The students also raised banners and shouted slogans as they were surrounded by a crowd of curious onlookers and pedestrians in the Burmese capital.

Students and monks were the driving force behind nationwide pro-democracy protests in 1988 that were suppressed after a military coup.

Meanwhile, the NLD seemed to be having second thoughts about leading a lengthy procession on Martyrs' Day to lay a wreath at the mausoleum where the slain general is buried. Some of the younger party members have reportedly expressed fears that the march could be exploited to create unrest. Instead they have decided to stay indoors and conduct private religious rituals to honour the country's dead martyrs, sources close to the movement said. But a few chosen NLD leaders will go ahead and lay wreaths as planned, the sources added.

On Wednesday morning, an NLD delegation visited the Election Commission "to clarify a few points with regard to convening a parliament," said the sources without elaborating. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Envoy Says U.S. Move 'May Create Problems'

BK1907060290 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0330 GMT 19 Jul 90

[By Salmy Hashim]

[Text] Washington, July 19 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The United States decision to open a dialogue with Vietnam without advanced consultation with ASEAN "may create problems" and will have an impact on the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Jakarta later this month, Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Razali Ismail, said Wednesday.

The announcement by Secretary [of State] James Baker in Paris that the US is willing to open a dialogue with Vietnam on Cambodia was "unexpected" as the US had always taken its cue from ASEAN and worked with ASEAN to solve the Cambodian problem, he said. "It certainly puts us in an awkward position," he told BERNAMA in a telephone interview from New York.

The US decision not to recognise the United Nations seat held by the three-party resistance coalition, which included the Khmer rouge, "would also pose a serious problem" in the United Nations, he said.

Mahathir Rejects Commonwealth Observers Proposal

BK0907094490 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has rejected the opposition proposal for an all-party committee to lay down conditions to enable Commonwealth election observers to monitor the forthcoming general elections. He pointed out that there seemed to be no trust in the observers to be appointed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, which is neutral. On the other hand, the opposition had trusted the Election Watch. The government has rejected the Election Watch and said it is clearly one-sided.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said he does not understa[illegible]e stand taken by the opposition. He said this at a news conference at the end of his visit to Perak.

On the security situation in Sabah, the prime minister said it was under control. He advised political parties in the state not to bring up anti-federal issues. This could raise unhealthy effects in the country.

New Cabinet for Sabah State Announced

BK1907102590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0831 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, July 19 (BERNAMA)—Chief Minister of the East Malaysian state of Sabah Joseph Pairin Kitingan Thursday announced a nine-member state cabinet after getting a new mandate in the state elections Tuesday [17 July].

Pairin appointed three deputy chief ministers including Ahmed Bahrom Titingan who lost his seat to United Sabah National Organisation candidate in the elections. The other deputy chief ministers are Yong Teck Lee and Bernard Dompok.

All the cabinet members were sworn in Thursday before Sabah state's Governor Mohamed Said Keruak at the state palace. Besides assuming the post of deputy chief minister, Yong is also the minister of industrial development, while Dompok is also minister of agriculture and fisheries.

Pairin said he retained Ahmed Bahrom "because he was ruling United Sabah Party deputy president". "Although he lost in votes in his state constituency, he has not lost support in the constituency," he told reporters after the swearing-in of the ministers.

He said Ahmed Bahrom was made member of the state legislative assembly Thursday in the capacity of an appointed member. The state constitution provides for the chief minister to appoint six additional members to the assembly.

The other cabinet members are Finance Minister Joseph Kurup, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Development Tan Kit Sher, Minister of Communications and Works Wilfred Bumburing, Minister of Social Services Ariah Tengku Ahmed and Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports Kadoh Agundong.

Pairin said that the assistant ministers were expected to be appointed Friday.

Singapore

Bill Proposed on Permits for Foreign Papers

BK1807144190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Singapore, July 18 (AFP)—Singapore on Wednesday proposed legislation requiring foreign newspapers to have permits to sell and distribute in the republic, the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) reported.

Circulation would be subject to conditions including the maximum number of copies allowed, and the naming of a local representative to accept service of any legal process on behalf of the publication or its owner, SBC said.

Observers linked the conditions to recent court action against THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, in which the Singapore Government served legal documents in its contempt action on the journal's office in Hong Kong as the paper had no official representative in the republic.

The journal, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW and ASIAWEEK are under strict circulation restrictions in Singapore after run-ins with the government over alleged interference in Singapore's domestic affairs.

The proposed amendment to the newspaper and printing presses act defined offshore newspapers as those published outside Singapore at intervals of not more than a week and which report on politics and current affairs of not only Singapore but any country in Southeast Asia.

SBC, reporting on the bill submitted to Parliament Wednesday, said the permit would be required for any publication with a circulation of 300 copies or more per issue in Singapore.

Permits would be valid for one year, renewable for up to 12 months at a time, SBC said. Details of the bill were not immediately available to the foreign press.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Welcomes U.S. Announcement in Paris

SPK Cites Baker

BK1907044190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0422 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 19—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that the United States would no longer recognise the Cambodian tripartite coalition seated at the United Nations.

Mr. Baker made the announcement after talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Paris, according to AFP.

Asked whether the United States no longer supported the coalition, he said that "with respect to the seat at the United Nations that is certainly the case."

He said the aim was to "prevent the return to power by the Khmer Rouge."

Mr. Baker indicated that the latest moves were motivated by the lack of progress in various forums towards a negotiated settlement on Cambodia with a view to holding free elections in the war-torn country.

"We tried a political dialogue with the Khmer Rouge, but they succeeded in turning that dialogue into the dialogue of the battlefield," Mr. Baker said.

Asked whether the United States had informed China of its decision, Mr. Baker replied there was "some consultation."

He added that he knew the six non-communist Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been contacted.

Foreign Ministry Views Stance

BK1907122190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1122 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 19—The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Cambodia today welcomes the declaration made on Wednesday by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker not to recognize the Cambodian tripartite coalition seated at the United Nations.

In the declaration released here today the spokesman said, "U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, according to VOA, said in Paris Wednesday that the United States would no longer recognize the Cambodian tripartite coalition seated at the United Nations and that the U.S. aim was to prevent the return to power by the Khmer Rouge."

The new position of the United States was conforming with the long-standing aspiration of the Cambodian people and the world public. Only the expulsion of the Khmer Rouge genocidal clique from the U.N. could bring pressure to bear upon them to turn to the negotiating table to solve the Cambodian problem by political settlement and force them to participate in the supreme national council to be formed under the joint communique signed in Tokyo on June 5, 1990 and at the same time it was the first-step measure to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime, the spokesman added. The Government of the State of Cambodia warmly welcomes this constructive stance of the United States and considers it a new encouragement to the Cambodian people in their national defence and reconstruction.

"This [is] also paving the way for the achievement of an early political settlement of the Cambodian conflict and enables the United Nations to play its honourable and appropriate role in resolving the Cambodian issue," the spokesman for the [Foreign Ministry] said. "But only the two governments of Cambodia (?can solve) the Cambodian internal affairs," the spokesman concluded.

Move Called 'Constructive'

BK1907040990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0349 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi, July 19 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government Thursday welcomed as a step towards peace the U.S. decision to withdraw its recognition of the United Nations seat held by the three party Cambodian resistance. "We welcome this position, we have been waiting a long time to see that move and it is constructive," Chief Foreign Ministry Spokesman Chum Bunrong said. "We consider it a step...towards paving the way for a settlement in Cambodia and maybe for good understanding between the two countries (United States and Cambodia)," he added.

Mr. Chum Bunrong said his government would be making a more comprehensive response to the U.S.

announcement later Thursday or on Friday. He said it would also react to the United Nations Security Council permanent members' meeting in Paris on Cambodia when it had fuller details of the results.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announcing the major policy change in Paris on Wednesday said it was taken in order to prevent a return to power in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge, the strongest military faction in the resistance alliance that has held the U.N. seat since 1982. He also said Washington was ready to open a dialogue with Vietnam on Cambodia. Hanoi ousted the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in 1979 and installed the current government.

Mr. Baker also said Washington was ready to increase "humanitarian assistance" to Cambodia, a move that the Phnom Penh official also welcomed. "We welcome all aid which helps Cambodian people hurt by the civil war caused by the Khmer Rouge," he said.

The Khmer Rouge forms an uneasy alliance with non-communist groups led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann. The United States continues to back these two groups.

Heng Samrin Greets Gorbachev on Reelection

BK1907055990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 19—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council of Cambodia, has sent warmest greetings to Mikhail Gorbachev, on his re-election as general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee.

In his message, Party General Secretary Heng Samrin notably said "the C.P.S.U. has been undertaking the crucial process of perestroika and the policy of glasnost, exerting an important impact on the building of prosperous Soviet society along the line of socialism and peace. The CPSU always remains the vanguard party in the Soviet society, always taking Marxism-Leninism as the beacon illuminating its struggle for a world free of confrontation, violence and war.

"I am firmly convinced that the friendship and cooperation between our two parties will further consolidate and develop in the interests of peace and socialism.

"I wish you the best of health and new, greater successes in your noble task," the message concluded.

Leaders Greet CSFR Officials' Reelections

BK1907055590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1110 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Jul (SPK)—Cambodian leaders have just sent their warm greetings to Vaclav Havel, Marian Calfa, and Jiri Dienstbier on their re-elections respectively to the posts of president, prime minister, and foreign minister of the CSFR.

The message signed by Heng Samrin, president of the State of Cambodia, expressed his thanks to the people of the CSFR for their support for the cause of peace of the Cambodian people.

He said he was convinced that the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation would develop in favor of the interests of the two peoples and peace in the world.

In another message, Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, wished for the consolidation of security and confidence in Europe and world peace.

Paris Gives Phnom Penh Over 27 Million Francs

BK1907063590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1114 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Jul (SPK)—The city of Paris has just given Phnom Penh 27,308,720 francs. This is the first humanitarian aid from the French capital, aid which consists particularly of 600 kg of medicines and medical equipment, a generator, a lawn-mower, 22 typewriters, and six trucks for public works.

During a delivery ceremony organized in Phnom Penh on Monday afternoon, He Kan, vice chairman of the Phnom Penh City People's Committee, deeply thanked the city of Paris for this generous and disinterested aid. He said that this aid greatly contributes to the development of the Cambodian capital.

Resistance Reacts to U.S. Policy Decision

Son Sann Responds

BK1807154990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Paris, July 18 (AFP)—The prime minister of the Cambodian opposition coalition, Son Sann, said here on Wednesday that he would seek approval from Prince Sihanouk to call an emergency opposition meeting in Bangkok or Paris. Mr. Son Sann was reacting to a decision by the United States to cease recognition at the United Nations for the coalition because it included the Khmer Rouge.

The coalition comprises supporters of Prince Sihanouk, Mr. Son Sann's right-wing nationalist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) movement, and the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge held responsible for the murder of tens of thousands of Cambodians when they were in power a decade ago. The coalition is fighting the forces of the Cambodian Government left in place when Vietnamese troops withdrew from Cambodia.

The United States announced on Wednesday that its move was intended to prevent a return to power of the

Khmer Rouge and was not intended to undermine Prince Sihanouk. Washington also said that it envisaged contacts with Hanoi.

Mr. Son Sann said that the U.S. decision "could play into the hands of Hanoi and Phnom Penh", but described as "positive" a decision by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to continue aid to the non-communist resistance.

Mr. Son Sann said that the supreme national council planned under a U.N. process of diplomacy should obtain the seat allocated to Cambodia at the United Nations, or otherwise the "status quo" should continue.

Sihanouk Calls Change 'Injustice'

BK1907081690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Bangkok, July 19 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk condemned Thursday Washington's decision to withdraw its support for his guerrilla coalition's tenure of Cambodia's United Nations seat as "a very grave injustice." The move was "a fantastic bonus" for Vietnam and Phnom Penh's Hanoi-installed government, the prince said in a message circulated by his office here.

Prince Sihanouk, who is currently in Pyongyang, is the figurehead chief of the U.N.-seated anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition which is dominated by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former Marxist ruling group.

The prince, one of two non-communist leaders allied to the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, appealed "with all justice-, peace- and freedom-loving peoples and governments in the world" for the resistance "not to be unfairly stripped of its (U.N.) seat." He was reacting to the announcement Wednesday in Paris by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the United States would no longer recognise Cambodia's U.N. seat held by the resistance and was willing to open talks with Vietnam on Cambodia.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia 11 and a half years ago to overthrow a Khmer Rouge regime and install a client government in Phnom Penh which is also communist but less extreme. But the Khmer Rouge and later the guerrilla coalition, following its formation in 1982, retained Cambodia's seat at the world body.

Ranariddh Cited

BK1907065890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state announced in Paris yesterday that the Unites States would withdraw diplomatic recognition of the Cambodian Coalition Government which includes the Khmer Rouge, but it continued to support the two noncommunist fronts—The United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] headed by H.R.H. [His Royal Highness] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front led by His Excellency Son Sann—in their fighting to wrest back independence for Cambodia. Secretary of State James Baker added that the United States would open a direct dialogue with Vietnam on peace in Cambodia. Baker made this statement following a two-hour meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Paris. It was reported that the United States had asked the Soviet Union to put pressure on Vietnam to soften its stance so that genuine negotiations on Cambodian peace could take place because the United States has seen that Vietnam and the Cambodian group it propped up have increasingly hardened their positions on a settlement of the Cambodian problem.

In the meantime, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the FUNCINPEC and supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Kampuchea, said he hoped that the United States' policy shift would not give a wrong signal that would make Hanoi strengthen its stubborn stand on a settlement of the Cambodian problem. The prince added that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's announcement that the United States would continue to support the two noncommunist fronts was the best thing. He said he hoped that Hanoi and the Hanoi-installed regime, which are at present increasingly toughening their positions on rejecting a enhanced UN role in a settlement of the Cambodian problem, would soften the positions so as to break up the deadlock on a political settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

Ranariddh Notes PRC Role

BK1807164490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Bangkok, July 18 (AFP)—A top non-communist guerrilla leader reacted bitterly to a U.S. decision Wednesday to no longer recognise the Cambodian resistance's U.N. seat, saying Washington was eliminating non-communist forces. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Norodom Sihanouk's son and the commander of his guerrilla forces, said "the United States is in the process of eliminating the liberals within the resistance."

Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, is one of two non-communist leaders allied to the powerful Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, a radical Marxist group, all of whom are fighting Phnom Penh government forces.

Prince Ranariddh, speaking to reporters here, was commenting on an announcement in Paris by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Washington would no longer recognise Cambodia's U.N. seat held by the guerrilla coalition and was willing to open talks with Vietnam on Cambodia. Mr. Baker also said Washington was prepared to increase "humanitarian assistance" to Cambodia.

Prince Ranariddh said China, which supplies the bulk of its military aid to the Khmer Rouge but also gives some

to its allies, had told the non-communists that it would provide them with humanitarian assistance if Washington were to withdraw its aid. "China is already ready to replace the United States. It has let us know that if the United States cuts off seven million dollars, it is ready to provide 14 million," he said.

The United States gives seven million dollars annually in non-lethal aid to the factions of Prince Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann. There are reports that they also receive covert military aid, but Washington denies this.

Other non-communist guerrilla officials saw the U.S. announcement as aimed at putting pressure on the two non-communist factions to move toward ending their alliance with the Khmer Rouge. "This is a signal from the United States to the non-communist resistance," said one official. He said Mr. Baker's stand showed that Washington wanted efforts to end the war in Cambodia to follow the pattern of an accord signed last month in Tokyo by Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk.

The Tokyo pact, calling for cessation of hostilities and the formation of an interim supreme national council with its membership equally divided among Phnom Penh and the guerrilla coalition, has been rejected by the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge, which has insisted that power be shared by all four warring Cambodian factions, objected to the agreement because it is "bilateral."

Mr. Baker, who was talking to reporters after a meeting in Paris with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnaze, insisted that the United States continued to support the non-communist resistance factions within the coalition.

Prince Ranariddh said he was "very pleased" with this remark, but he scoffed at the the United States and other Western countries which may adopt a similar stand on the U.N. seat.

The Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands during its near-four year rule over Cambodia, was ousted in January 1979 when Vietnam invaded the southeast Asian country to install a client government in Phnom Penh. But the Khmer Rouge and later the guerrilla coalition, following its formation in 1982, retained Cambodia's seat at the U.N.

ASEAN Efforts Praised Before Jakarta Meeting

BK1907051990 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Station editorial: "The Correct and Just Stance of the ASEAN Countries To Assist and Support the Just Struggle of the Cambodian People, the Cambodian National Resistance Forces, and the Cambodian National Government for the Past Nearly 12 Years Have Greatly Contributed to the Maintenance of Peace, Security, and Stability in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific Region, and the World"]

[Text] The six ASEAN countries will hold the annual meeting of their foreign ministers in Jakarta on 24 and 25 July. Spokesmen of the ASEAN countries have said that the six ASEAN foreign ministers will discuss major world issues, particularly the Cambodian problem.

In the past nearly 12 years, the ASEAN countries have adhered to a correct and just stance on the Cambodian problem. They have firmly opposed Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia, which violates and tramples Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, international law, and the UN Charter, and also directly threatens security, peace, and stability in the entire Southeast Asian region. The ASEAN countries have been in the forefront in opposing the aggressive and expansionist strategy of the Hanoi Vietnamese expansionists and have prevented a bad precedent whereby the big and strong can commit aggression, expand, and interfere at will against the small and weak. This has also prevented aggressors and expansionists from using power and the law of the jungle to violate international law, the UN Charter, and international order.

The world community and the governments of a multitude of peace- and justice-loving countries the world over have highly appreciated the ASEAN countries' correct stance. They have widely assisted and supported the ASEAN countries' activities and efforts at every international forum, particularly at the annual UN General Assembly since 1979. The draft resolution of the ASEAN countries at the UN General Assembly in 1989, which called for a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem with Vietnam withdrawing all types of its aggressor forces from Cambodia under UN control and genuine national reconciliation under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership, was supported by 124 members of the United Nations.

The Cambodian people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and the Cambodian national government, like the international community, support the ASEAN countries' efforts to solve the Cambodian problem comprehensively so that Cambodia quickly recovers independence and peace and that peace and security in the region are ensured. It is in the spirit of wanting to solve the Cambodian problem quickly and comprehensively that the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian national government, under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership, have supported the 26 May statement of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Cambodian national resistance forces believe that this 26 May statement represents a reasonable framework for solving the Cambodian problem justly, correctly, and definitively.

The Cambodian people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and the Cambodian national government

would like to take this opportunity to express most profound thanks to the ASEAN countries. We also wish them successive victories in their efforts to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem quickly so that Cambodia recovers its independence and peace and also to ensure durable peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and the entire world.

Battle for Stoung, Kompong Svay Reported

BK1907024990 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] In five days, from 11 to 15 July, our national resistance forces attacked the Vietnamese enemy and puppets, who have gathered troops to try to retake Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts [Kompong Thom Province]. We killed 20 enemy soldiers, including a battalion commander, and wounded 35 others. We also damaged a Soviet-made T-54 tank and seized nine AK's and a quantity of war materiel.

VONADK Says Enemy 'Routed' in Kompong Speu

BK1907025590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] On 6, 8, and 10 July, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets gathered two regiments of their forces, backed by tanks and multiple rockets, and attempted to retake liberated villages in Kong Pisei District [Kompong Speu Province] from us. However, they were ambushed, routed, and forced to retreat. We killed nine enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded 17 others and also seized a large quantity of various types of ammunition and war materiel.

Indonesia

Indonesia, France To Renew Cambodian Process

BK1907021890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0208 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Jakarta, July 19 (AFP)—Indonesia and France have agreed to renew efforts to find a peaceful solution to the 11-year old Cambodian conflict, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here.

But he added that the two countries would not hastily call for an international conference.

Indonesia and France, co-chairmen of an international conference on Cambodia in Paris last year, believed efforts had slackened and this should be reversed as the peace process was adrift, Mr. Alatas told Parliament late Wednesday.

"But we will continue to be realistic. We must not hastily convene a formal and open international conference," he said, adding that concrete steps would be taken after meetings in Paris and here among various interested parties this month.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council gathered in Paris this week to discuss the Cambodian issue in a meeting which Cambodia's warring factions were invited to but failed to attend.

The issue is also expected to feature prominently here next week during the annual ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and at a follow-up dialogue with their counterparts from the United States, Australia, Japan, Europe, Canada and New Zealand.

300 Vietnamese Refugees Willing To Return Home

BK1907110390 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1001 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Jakarta, July 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Government of Vietnam will dispatch three consuls here to help the return of around 300 boat people being settled on Galang Island in Riau. The Vietnamese refugees were reported to have expressed their willingness to voluntarily return home.

The officials appointed by Vietnam's Ministry of Internal Affairs would interview the refugees to ascertain that they really wanted to go back home voluntarily, Vietnam Embassy's protocol [officer] Hoang Chi Trung said here Thursday.

The officials would afterwards help repatriate the refugees, the protocol said. Trung said that the refugees would leave for home on July 20 or July 23.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, at a working meeting with House Commission I held on late Wednesday, had disclosed the Vietnam Government's plan to send the three consuls here.

Alatas said that the 300 Indochinese refugees had met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and expressed their wish to voluntarily go home. The Vietnamese officials in addition to their visit to Indonesia, will also visit Malaysia and Thailand.

Meanwhile, Foreign Information Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Samsubahri Siregar said that the Vietnam consuls would discuss technical aspects for the return of the boat people.

The number of Vietnamese refugees who have been settled on Galang Island reached 15,000 in June.

UN Food Program Gives Assistance to Refugees

BK1907105990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0938 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Jakarta, Jul 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has decided to give assistance of one million U.S. dollars to Indonesia for the

supply of food to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on Galang Island in the Province of Riau.

The WFP decision was revealed to reporters, Thursday, by WFP Executive Director James Ingram after paying a courtesy visit to President Suharto at Bina Graha [Presidential Office]. The decision was taken in Rome before Ingram left for Jakarta.

So far WFP had provided six million U.S dollars to refugees to buy food, Ingram said. The additional assistance was meant to be spent on rice, canned food and vegetables. The one million U.S. dollar fund is expected to cover the refugees' need for protein until mid next year, Ingram said.

Asked on WFP assistance to the transmigration programme, he mentioned that no preparation had yet been made to increase assistance to the sector. The current assistance programme amounted to 40 million U.S. dollars for 140,000 head of families.

We are ready to continue the program if the Indonesian Government wishes, Ingram said explaining that the 40 million U.S. dollars was given in 1989 and would end in 1993.

In his meeting with President Suharto, Ingram said the president had explained that Indonesia had been continuing to implement its reforestation program spending 300 million U.S. dollars annually.

Ingram praised the Indonesian Government policy for managing its forests effectively.

Laos

Nouhak Phoumsavan Delivers SPA Closing Speech

BK1807095790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Speech by Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, delivered at closing ceremony of the fourth extraordinary session of the second legislature of the Supreme People's Assembly in Vientiane on 27 June—recorded]

[Text] After three days of energetically working in a high spirit of responsibility, the second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] today closed its fourth extraordinary session with a glorious success. [applause] The endorsement of the five draft laws during the session is considered very significant, because it has brought about the further enhancement of the multiethnic people's confidence in the progress of the country and the advance of the popular democratic system. This is a fact.

Since the closure of the second session of the SPA late last year, our state has promulgated four laws, namely the criminal law, law on procedures for criminal cases, law on people's courts, and law on people's judiciary institute. Since then, our people have seen for the first time a change in the justice system both in organization and application. The trying of criminal cases and the sentencing of criminals have been explicitly put in order on the basis of state laws and regulations. After organizationally putting into force the aforesaid four laws, we have established the draft constitution and have brought it to the attention of the cadres and people for discussion. Everyone has come to understand the management of the state, which has now taken steps in effecting a new, significant change—the promulgation of the constitution which is considered a fundamental law of the party. As a result, the people have joyously increased their confidence in the party and state.

Now, in this fourth extraordinary session, we have discussed and endorsed five additional draft laws. This has shown that in a short period of time, our people have clearly viewed the new change, that is the change from management based on the line and policies of the party and state, to management of society based on the implementation of the constitution and laws. Following this, the people's confidence in our party and state has been significantly consolidated to a higher degree. [applause] In addition, the endorsement and promulgation of the five laws on this occasion will contribute to translating into reality the modification line of our party and state in the entire society in general and the modification of the economic and political systems in particular. It will then bring about the further consolidation of the new system on the path of consolidating, expanding, and perfecting the popular democratic system in our country. As the five draft laws have been endorsed, the problem now is the application of these laws to the practical life of the society for effective implementation.

I believe that it is necessary for us to review the guidance provided by the party on several occasions, which stated that the problem or weak point in the management of social undertakings is in organizing the implementation of policies, regulations, and laws. If we fail to strengthen this weakness, the policies, regulations, and laws, no matter how correct, will be viable only on paper and will not bring about good results. This is why we are concerned with correcting the aforesaid weak point. To effectively implement the laws, it is necessary to encourage all forces concerned to divide labor and to coordinate with each other in accordance with their respective roles, responsibilities, rights, and limits. At the same time, it is necessary to regularly inspect this implementation in order to correct any mistakes and resolve all problems that might arise.

Regarding the implementation of the new laws endorsed in this session, we should pay attention to the following points:

1. After the promulgation of the new laws, the Council of Ministers will have to issue a legal act for implementation, as no law can specify all tasks to be done. Laws can only define the basic tasks of all branches, levels, and

people. Based on this legal act of the Council of Ministers, all ministries and branches will issue their own concrete legal measures. To make arrangements for implementation is to systematically establish integrated laws for each level. Since all laws are related, after the promulgation of these laws it will be necessary to systematically draft other laws.

2. Campaigns must be organized to extensively publicize and explain the five new laws. In this session, I have proposed that all SPA members acknowledge that there are many difficulties in publicizing the laws and regulations to the multiethnic people. Despite these difficulties, we must fulfill this task because it is important. For thousands of years, Lao society has existed and developed on the basis of a natural, subsistent economy. Until today, our economy has not been free from these natural, subsistent conditions. This natural economy encompasses crop cultivation and livestock breeding, which are based mainly on natural conditions without any concern for economic and technical progress.

Knowledge on the natural economy is still limited. People know only about the economy of their own villages. They do not pay attention to what other villages are doing to build the natural economy. Hence, when people of one village introduce new and useful techniques on production and management, neighboring villages fail to learn from these new lessons. Also, most of the land in our country is covered with mountains. This makes it difficult for the people to visit each other and to exchange goods and culture. This low level of economic interaction due to geographic conditions has brought about a limitation of socioeconomic activities in each area, village, and district. This has resulted in the continuance of chieftainships and feudalism and, in particular, a lack of organization in political and administrative affairs and in the implementation of laws and regulations. As a result, the sense of national unification of our people in many areas—in particular in the remote, mountainous areas—remains at a low level. The people living in these remote, mountainous areas have paid no attention to the laws promulgated by the state, and they have no knowledge about the impact of laws on their social life. They do not understand how the laws are involved with their daily life.

Under these circumstances, it is necessary for members of the SPA at all levels who are in charge of propaganda and training in the legal field to make positive efforts to overcome the difficulties in reaching these people living in remote areas and to relate properly to all manner of people in all regions of the country. They must seek means to encourage the multiethnic people to pay attention to the laws and help them to understand certain basic, significant articles of these laws so they can be implemented. At the same time, the multiethnic people must be encouraged to contribute views on the draft constitution. Only by so doing can we cultivate a sense of national unification and the sense of the multiethnic people being owners of the country. This is considered a significant task of our party and state at present.

3. It is necessary to follow up on the implementation of the laws in order to check the reactions of various offices, organizations, and people toward the laws; to see how much they appreciate them; to see whether or not they understand and correctly comply with the laws and regulations; and to see if there is any content of the laws which does not conform with the practical conditions in the country. In short, the purpose of this follow-up is to ensure the efficiency of the laws in society and to look for shortcomings in implementing the laws so that appropriate means can be adopted to correct these weaknesses. All of this is aimed at guaranteeing the unification of the provisions in the laws and the implementation of the laws which have presently been put into force.

The executive organizations, judiciary organizations, courts, Public Prosecution Institute, and the people's assemblies—the SPA and local people's assemblies at all levels—are responsible for the follow-up and control of the implementation of the legal system. Particularly, after endorsing the various draft laws, our SPA members must pay sufficient attention to the implementation of the five new laws, as well as to the various laws already endorsed and put into force.

Beloved SPA members, it has been less than one year since our second SPA has performed its duties. With our spirit of responsibility toward the people, we have fulfilled certain tasks. In the session held in late 1989, we endorsed four draft laws—criminal law, law on procedures for criminal cases, law on people's courts, and law on people's judiciary institute. These four laws have been put into force since early this year and have proven to be very useful. In the third session held early this year, we endorsed the socioeconomic development plan for 1990, a plan which has been supported by the multiethnic people of all strata who have been positively implementing it. In this session, we discussed and endorsed five more laws, namely law on ownership, law on contracts, law on heritage, law on the establishment of the banks of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and law on court fees. Should these five laws be put into force, they will benefit the development of the inheritance procedures, property-exchange relations, and goods-currency relations in the implementation of the new economic management mechanism in our country.

Along with a number of tasks which have been fulfilled, we have positively established the draft constitution and presented it to the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee. The Political Bureau of the party Central Committee has allowed us to publicize and hold discussions on the draft constitution with cadres and the people. The Secretariat of the party Central Committee has issued an instruction on this draft constitution. The campaign to discuss the draft constitution among the cadres and people has passed through its first step. Now the campaign has entered its second stage and we hope that by the end of the year the SPA will consider and endorse it. Should the draft constitution be endorsed, it will be of great significance to our country. The SPA

Standing Committee expects more civil and economic laws to be passed during a meeting to be held later this year.

Thus it can be said that in a short period of time, we have persistently striven to fulfill a number of tasks. However, there are always shortcomings when carrying out tasks. The more tasks we complete, the more weaknesses we encounter. The newly modified plans and policies which were adopted by our party in previous years have been supported wholeheartedly by the people because these plans and policies have served the requirements of the people of all strata. By supporting the plans and policies, the people have carried out enthusiastically movements in all fields in performing the tasks of defending the country, maintaining public security, and promoting production. They have also actively fulfilled other tasks to score achievements to welcome the forthcoming 15th anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and in preparing for the fifth congress of our party.

The multiethnic people have followed up on the activities of our SPA. The tasks which we have fulfilled on the establishment of the draft constitution and the endorsement of various new laws in the past session as well as in this session are all in line with the tasks entrusted to us by the people. We have done our utmost in fulfilling these tasks. However, it is certain that in the process of switching from the social management based mainly on the line and policies of the party to management based on the constitution and laws, there remain many more tasks to be fulfilled and many difficulties to overcome. This is because the establishment of the draft constitution and laws has been based on the practical conditions of our country. Actually, it is a matter of turning the line and policies of the party and state into laws and regulations.

However, this is considered a brand new task for us. We have had no lessons in this field. Lacking practical lessons is considered one difficulty, and failing to study explicitly actual conditions in the country is another. This is why it is considered a brand new task for us. Therefore, we have had to spend time studying the conditions in the country and collecting and learning lessons from all fraternal and friendly countries, both far and near. There is no certain pattern to follow in establishing the draft constitution and laws, but we have studied and followed the good lessons of all fraternal and friendly countries. The established draft constitution and the laws that have already been established, endorsed, and put into force or that are to be promulgated have, therefore, resulted from our own efforts as well as those of fraternal and friendly countries the world over. For this reason, I would like to take this occasion to thank all diplomats who have represented these fraternal and friendly countries.

The completion of the draft constitution and a number of laws just before the end of the session has shown our great determination. Nevertheless, we have not yet met the requirements in the establishment of the legal system. Moreover, we still do not have laws to cope with all activities and with the management of the state. This is the task that we have not yet fulfilled. From now on, we will continue to establish a number of draft laws as necessary. We will also clearly report to the people the remaining tasks to be completed as well as the tasks which we have completed since the second legislature of the SPA. Reporting our achievements is also considered one of our tasks. Nevertheless, the major tasks which must be fulfilled are the modification of the political system and the promotion of the people's democratic rights. The people must be encouraged to express views on the draft constitution and to contribute to setting up regulations and laws. The people must be allowed to take part in managing the state, for the state belongs to them. Regarding this, it is clearly stipulated in the constitution that the people maintain rights and sovereignty over the LPDR. Therefore, the people have exercised their rights to control and manage their state.

I now officially announce the closing of the fourth extraordinary session of the second SPA. Thank you. [applause]

Nouhak Phoumsavan Addresses Sekong Meeting

BK1807024490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] On 14 July, Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], visited and addressed the party and administrative committees of Sekong Province. Attending the meeting to hear the address by Nouhak Phoumsavan on this occasion were Yao Phonvantha, member of the party Central Committee, secretary of the party committee, and chairman of the administrative committee of Sekong Province, along with heads of various services, companies, and mass organizations in the province.

In his address SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan first praised and hailed their satisfactory achievements in building the economy and improving the living conditions of the multiethnic people throughout the province. He also hailed their profound understanding in the political and ideological work and their effective implementation of the line and policies of the party and plans of the state for each stage on the basis of the new, comprehensive changes.

Nouhak Phoumsavan further reiterated the campaigns in publicizing the state laws and campaigns in discussing and drawing public views on the draft constitution, the political life campaigns, which are considered very significant and have now been carried out among the Lao cadres and multiethnic people throughout the country.

Instruction on Constitution Discussion Issued

BK1807131590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Jul 90

[Text] On 10 July, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Secretariat issued instruction no. 29 to all ministries, equivalent organizations, and party committees of all provinces and municipalities on the conclusion of the draft constitution discussion campaign.

The instruction says: The issuance of the party central committee secretariat's instruction no. 28 dated 15 June 1990 [date as heard] on the promotion of democracy during the draft constitution discussion campaign has brought about many changes in the implementation of the campaign's second phase. For example, people now dare to express their opinions more frankly. Opinions voiced during the discussions in many localities conform with the party's lines and policy as well as the realities of the country. This is evidence of the political consciousness of the people of all tribes and strata. The campaign has been completed in most localities. However, people in many major towns have been left to discuss irrelevant topics and party policy without any guidance. To ensure that the campaign will end successfully and on time, the party Central Committee Secretariat therefore instructs all sectors and localities to prepare a campaign assessment.

First of all, we agree that an assessment of the discussion campaign is a significant undertaking. Accurate evaluation of the campaign's results will reveal the actual conditions in the country and provide the foundation for perfecting the draft constitution. The assessment will also measure the efficiency of the guidance for discussions on the draft constitution provided by party organizations at all levels.

In order to end the campaign successfully and on time, all sectors and localities must pay close attention to the following important points.

The first deals with priority undertakings. It is as follows:

1. Accurately evaluate the efforts to expand the right to self-mastery of the people of all tribes and strata during the discussions on the draft constitution.

2. Accurately evaluate the level of understanding on the major contents of the draft constitution such as those on political, social, and economic systems and rights and obligations of Lao citizens. This is because these major issues are directly related the party's line and policy and rights and interest of every citizen. Meanwhile, other issues such as the organizational structure of state apparatuses are also important, but they should not be allowed to dominate the discussions.

3. Accurately evaluate the efficiency of all ministries, equivalent organizations, and party committees at all levels in organizing and guiding the discussion campaign. The evaluation must start with their awareness of the significance of the campaigns to enhance political life and democracy and their efforts during the dicussions to guide the people in the right direction.

These three major undertakings are aimed at achieving three objectives and four expectations of the party central committee directive no. 21 dated 30 April 1990.

The second point is related to the campaign assessment.

1. The cadres' and people's level of understanding of the contents of the draft constitution can be assessed from the way the discussions have been conducted.
2. The people's opinions on the draft constitution must be classified as follows: Agreement with the contents and articles of the draft constitution and the percentage of its supporters to the population in each locality. Disagreement with certain articles of the draft constitution and their reasons. Proposals for addition, omission, or amendment to articles and their reasons. It should also be clearly indicated if opinions are from a group or from individuals.
3. Self-criticism and group criticism among people must be practised. Significance must be attached to complaints made by the people against cadres, soldiers, policemen, and organizations from the grass-roots level upwards and the action taken by the units and localities concerned. This is to further strengthen relations between the party and state on the one side and people on the other.
4. In popularizing the draft constitution, all sectors and localities must pay their attentions to the promotion of the people's democratic rights. The people must be allowed to freely express their opinions.

The third point is about the assessment and timing.

1. After the end of the campaign, each unit, village, canton, and district must make an assessment by calling for a grass-roots cadres meeting.
2. A sector without a grass-roots unit under its control is instructed to make a one-level assessment, while those with grass-roots units should make a two-level assessment. Assessments from the Armed Forces and military units must be submitted to the National Defense Ministry for an overall assessment. Police units are to submit their assessments to the Interior Ministry. In all localities, assessments are to be made at the district and provincial levels. Secretaries and members of district party organizations and cadres in charge of popularizing the draft constitution are required to attend district-level assessment meetings. At the provincial level, members of standing committees of provincial party organizations, secretaries of district party organizations, and cadres concerned must attend the assessment meetings.
3. Opinions expressed during the assessment meetings must be summarized and classified. After the meetings, party organizations must convene to review and assess the achievements. Later, they are to report this to the Constitution Drafting Committee and to appoint representatives to provide additional explanation for their reports.

The campaign assessment of localities should be made from 20 to 30 July. The assessments at provincial, municipal, ministerial, and equivalent organizations must be completed between 1 and 5 August 1990. Assessment reports must be submitted to the Constitution Drafting Committee between 10 and 15 July 1990. This is to ensure that the committee has enough time to revise and improve the draft constitution before submiting it to the party Central Committee where it will be considered and endorsed by the Supreme People's Assembly at the session scheduled to open in the middle of November 1990.

Ministries, equivalent organizations, and party committees of all provinces and municipalities are instructed to study the details of this instruction to ensure it is effectively implemented. Any problem arising during this period must be reported to the party Central Committee for a timely resolution.

Indochinese State Bank Governors Hold Meeting

BK1807131990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] On Saturday morning, 14 July, the fifth meeting of the governors of the state banks of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia was officially opened in Vientiane. Attending the meeting were Mrs. Pani Yathotou, chairperson of the State Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Kasi Tran, director general of the Vietnam State Bank; Cha Rieng, director general of the People's National Bank of Cambodia; and delegations from the three state banks.

The meeting discussed various issues, including the direction and patterns of cooperation among the three countries' central banks, the procedures for debt repayment, and the improvement of the transaction apparatuses of the three countries as agreed upon during the fourth meeting, which was held in Phnom Penh on 8 June 1988. The meeting also considered the new cooperation projects to be implemented in 1991 and 1992. It discussed the restructuring of the transaction apparatuses of the three countries to benefit business operations in conformity with the new economic management mechanisms in each country and international standards and practices.

Meeting on Mekong Bridge Construction Scheduled

BK1507094490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Jul 90

[Text] Another consultative meeting will be hosted in Vientiane on 24 July by the secretariat of the Lao National Mekong Committee to discuss progress on preparations to build a bridge across the Mekong River between Vientiane and Thailand's Nong Khai Province.

According to a source at the Lao National Mekong Committee, this meeting would be the continuation of the tripartite meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June this year. At the coming meeting, the chairman of the Lao National Mekong Committee will discuss with the Thai and Australian ambassadors to Laos the details of the principles for the construction of the Vientiane-Nong Khai bridge, which will begin in early 1991 with the $30.5 million donated by the Australian Government.

Front Delegation Begins 10-Day Visit to PRC

BK1907133990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] A delegation of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee led by Boualan Boualapha, member of the party central committee and vice chairman of the LFNC Central Committee, left Vientiane this morning for a 10-day visit to the PRC at the invitation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. During the visit, the Lao delegation will hold meetings and exchange views with Chinese officials on the front apparatus in each country as well as on improving relations between the Lao and Chinese organizations. The delegation will also visit various townships such as Harbin, Qingdao, and Dalian.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport were Khamtan Thepbouali, member of the LFNC Central Committee, and a number of cadres concerned. Liang Feng, the PRC ambassador to Laos, was also present at the airport.

Phoun Sipaseut at French National Day Reception

BK1807024290 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Jul 90

[Text] A celebration of the 200th anniversary of the national day of the French Republic was marked at a reception held in Vientiane on the evening of 14 July by Daniel Dupont, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Laos, and his wife. The reception, which proceeded in a joyous atmosphere, was attended by many Lao leaders and dignitaries, including Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, and Phao Bounnaphon, minister of trade and foreign economic relations, along with ministers, deputy ministers, and a large crowd of high-ranking cadres from various ministries. Members of diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations to Laos also attended the reception on this occasion.

New Ambassador to Australia Presents Credentials

BK1907134190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Vang Lattanavong, who was appointed by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to be the LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Australia, presented his credentials to His Excellency Governor General Sir Bill Hayden in the middle of May. The LPDR Government appointed the first Lao ambassador to Australia to create favorable

conditions for the further strengthening of relations between Laos and Australia.

Philippines

Manglapus: U.S. Bases Talks To Proceed in Aug

HK1907101990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus announced that the formal negotiations concerning the future of the U.S. military bases in the country will proceed in August as scheduled. The Manglapus-Shultz agreement is to expire on 16 September 1991. Manglapus said he has to leave the country on Monday, 22 July, despite the calamity that has struck the country. According to Manglapus, he is to attend the ASEAN foreign ministers' ministerial meeting in Jakarta, followed by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Singapore. He added tha he will proceed to New Delhi and will return to the Philippines on 4 August.

Military Closes In on 'Ferocious Warriors'

HK1907024490 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Jul 90 p 8

[By Mike Crismundo]

[Text] Esperanza, Agusan del Sur—Thousands of farmers in this municipality have fled their homes and farms in the wake of reports that the military is about to launch massive air-to-ground operations to capture renegade Army colonel Alexander Noble and his some 3,000 armed followers.

The fleeing farmers are from barangays Salug, Bunaguit, Sinakungan, Calabuan, Batolonay, and Guibonon. The exodus has been going on since July 13. The farmers have evacuated to nearby towns and in Butuan City. Some evacuees have been temporarily sheltered on the provincial capitol grounds in Patin-ay, Prosperidad. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of the Governor estimated the number of evacuees at 15,000.

Esperanza Mayor Filomeno Conol told newsman that the situation is his town, although normal, is tense. He said that the evacuees include barangay officials who did not ask any assistance from him. Newsmen saw yesterday the evacuees selling their farm animals at cheap prices. Meanwhile, sources said that Noble and his men have positioned themselves in full battle gear in places west of here. Earlier, Noble and his followers were given an ultimatum to give up peacefully until Monday.

Higaonon tribal chieftain Datu Manhupitan Ampidal Manpatilan was asked last week by Southcom chief Maj. Gen. [Major General] Manuel Dizon to inform Noble of the government's desire to accept him if he surrenders, Mayor Conol said. However, Conol added that the barangay captain in Salug informed him that Noble will not surrender.

Military intelligence agents have pinpointed Salug, about 18 kilometers west of here, as the place where Noble and his "ferocious native warriors" are holed up. Sources said that Noble's men have been undergoing rigid training on the British commando concept for the past six months. Last week, Noble's men seized high-frequency communications interceptors in Salug set up by the local Army detachment to monitor Noble's movements.

The sophisticated communications devices were seized but the firearms of the members of the Army detachment were returned to them after they were directed to move out of the area. Members of the PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial command and Army brigades and battalions in northeastern Mindanao have been placed in full-battle alert. War planes and helicopter gunships are on standby. As of yesterday afternoon, the main attacking force of the government was closing in on Noble's stronghold. An all-out combat operation was expected anytime last night and today.

21 NPA Rebels, Sympathizers Turn Themselves In

HK1907024290 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Jul 90 p 8

[By B. Villaluz]

[Text] Paracale, Camarines Norte—Twenty-one New People's Army (NPA) and sympathizers surrendered to government authorities here last week.

Recom [Regional Command] 5 PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Col. [Colonel] Noreberto Lina confirmed the surrender of the group which he considered as a "big blow" to the local communist movement in this town. The surrender was facilitated by a barangay captain who negotiated with the local NPA command. Lina said that vigorous military operations have been going on in the hinterlands of this province in an effort to eliminate the NPA. The barangays here were used to be under the influence of the NPA.

Aquino Welcomes Foreign Aid for Quake Relief

HK1807134790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1200 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has expressed gratitude to all governments, private groups, and individuals who are helping earthquake victims in the country.

The British, Japanese, Swiss, the Netherlands, Canadian, Singaporean, Australian, and the United States Governments have offered help and support through Radio Veritas.

Meanwhile, President Aquino announced the approval by Thailand Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan of a 500-metric ton rice donation, worth $95,000.

As of today, Royal Thai Chief of the Armed Forces General Sunthon Kongsomphong is still in the country.

Thailand

U.S. Move on Cambodia Termed 'Significant'

BK1907012790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 90 pp 1-2

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Kraisak Chunhawan, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's adviser on Cambodia, welcomed the US move [on Cambodia] as a "significant" step which reflected deeper insight by the US administration on the present situation in the war-torn country. "The move, however, is just a reflection of US global strategy which is now undergoing a review," he said.

Thailand will still have to balance its role between the two conflicting sides in the Cambodian conflict and consider ASEAN's stance on the issue, he said. But Kraisak added that the move was likely to have a considerable impact on ASEAN's position, the main point of which has been to recognize the resistance coalition since the Vietnamese invasion in 1979.

Kraisak said the US move would have to be raised for discussion at ASEAN's annual meeting in Jakarta next week. ASEAN, led by Indonesia, is reportedly planning to reassess its policy on Cambodia when their foreign ministers meet.

Meanwhile, a Bangkok-based ASEAN diplomat suggested yesterday that the US withdrawal of recognition to the resistance coalition was aimed at US domestic politics rather than to help resolve the Cambodian problem. "We've long expected the move since Mr Baker took the office two years ago when he immediately cut Washington's ties with the Contras in Nicaragua," the diplomat said. [passage omitted]

Suspect in Saudi Murders To Have Secret Trial

BK1807135990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] The Criminal Court yesterday decided that the suspect in the murder of three Saudi Arabian diplomats in Bangkok last February will be tried in secret. The court cited a number of reasons, including security and the possible impact on bilateral relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday's first hearing of suspect Suchat Harabi, who is being tried on charges of premeditated murder, was postponed to September 4 and 18 because a witness—Col [Colonel] Theppharat Rattanwit—is still abroad. Suchat's defence lawyer, Thongbai Thongpao, was also unable to appear in court because of engagements at Ratchaburi Court.

Chief Justice Praman Chansu said a trial in secret will in no way affect the rights of the suspect. "The trial will be conducted fairly and, if it is found the suspect is innocent, the charges will be dropped whether or not the trial is conducted in camera," he said.

UNHCR Center in Nakhon Ratchasima Planned

BK1907094790 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or UNHCR will set up a transit center in Nakhon Ratchasima Province to handle a repatriation of the thousands of Vietnamese boat people who are expected to volunteer to return home, a UNHCR official said.

Alexander Casella, UNHCR representative in charge of voluntary repatriation, said yesterday the transit center with a capacity to hold about 1,000 boat people will be established in September at the Si Khiu Camp on site of detention center for Vietnamese closed down in 1986. At present, about 12,000 Vietnamese boat people, who arrived in Thailand after the 14 March 1989 deadline, await screening to determine whether they are genuine refugees fleeing persecution or economic migrants seeking a better life in the Western countries.

Under the Comprehensive Plan of Action or CPA agreed upon by the first asylum and resettlement countries last year, Vietnamese boat people arriving in the country for first asylum after the deadline will be subjected to screening. Those who are deemed non-refugees will stand no chance of being resettled to the third country and will eventually be repatriated. Interior Ministry officials involved in refugee screening said about 80 percent of those arriving in Thailand after the deadline were expected to be screened out and repatriated. Casella said Hanoi planned to open another reception center for voluntary returnees in Ho Chi Minh City with a 1,000-person capacity and existing center in Hanoi has the capacity to hold about 1,000 persons.

Meanwhile, 124 Vietnamese who have volunteered for repatriation were interviewed yesterday by a three-member committee led by Vietnamese Deputy Immigration Director Tran Quoc Van at the Suanphlu Transit Center in Bangkok. The team, which is expected to finish the interviews on Friday, must determine that the Vietnamese apply for repatriation on their own free will. The committee already interviewed scores of boat people in Malaysia before arriving here on Saturday. The committee goes to Jakarta after completing its task in Bangkok.

The repatriation, if implemented, will be the first to be carried out by the UNHCR Bangkok Office which will give U.S. $50 to help each returnee resettle in his hometown. The returnees also will receive a monthly allowance of U.S. $30 for 10 months. Tran said so far more than 3,000 Vietnamese have volunteered to return home from Hong Kong and about 200 others from Malaysia and the Philippines. The deputy director said that Vietnamese Government was prepared to accept more boat people provided that they were not forced to

return. He added that the Vietnamese will receive humane treatment on their return and not be punished for leaving.

All the volunteers currently being interviewed will probably be sent home after Vietnamese authorities determine their hometowns and locate their families. Most of the volunteers are young single men who arrived in Thailand from southern Vietnam after the deadline, according to Tran. He said the first group of 11 volunteers will return to Vietnam this month.

Opposition Leaders Discuss No-Confidence Debate

BK1707020990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] The Opposition will use the Kruze Mosque lese majeste case as a main point in attacking the Government during the no-confidence motion debate this week, Solidarity spokesman Dr Athit Urairat said yesterday.

Dr Athit said at Parliament the Government had paid little attention to the case where Kruze Mosque protest leaders in Pattani reportedly made lese majeste comments against the monarchy. He claimed that since the protest began in March there had been 19 lese majeste comments made at rallies by protest leaders.

"The Government failed to take any action until it issued its first arrest warrants in June. "Now it has issued more warrants because it fears we will censure them on this. We will make this one of the main subjects of debate against the Government," Dr Athit said.

The authorities issued arrest warrants for four protest leaders, two of them on lese majeste charges, in early June. The Police Central Investigation Bureau on Sunday said it will be issuing 15 more warrants for Shiite radicals in connection with the protest. The radicals had been using controversy over the historical status of the ancient mosque in Pattani to instigate separatist causes, the authorities said.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, in his capacity as Defence Minister, will also be a subject of censure, Dr Athit said, declining to elaborate. He said the Opposition has prepared 60 debaters for the censure move, scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday, with voting on Friday. The Opposition is ready and confident its lineup has sufficient information to tackle the ministries without becoming repetitive. The Government should be ready to answer questions to the point, without using rhetoric or sidestepping the questions. "But if it is not ready it's not too late for the Prime Minister to resign now to escape censure," Dr Athit said.

Meanwhile, Solidarity deputy leader Uthai Phimchaichon, who is responsible for organising the debate on the Commerce Ministry, met MPs [members of parliament] from various opposition parties in Parliament yesterday morning. He said MPs have exchanged ideas and information on the ministry and coordinated their attacks. They also agreed the debate should be a little bit like World Cup football with a "coach" making out the "game plan" that MPs have to observe and follow.

Mr Uthai said the important thing for the Opposition is for its MPs not to get neurotic about providing air-tight evidence to support corruption charges. "Parliament is not a court. In politics the suspicious and improper behaviour of the minister is enough to warant an ousting," Mr Uthai said. He pointed to overseas cases where ministers are ousted from their portfolio because of dubious and unacceptable behaviour.

In an apparent reference to Prime Minister's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung who is responsible for the Mass Communication Organisation, Mr Uthai claimed: "Some minister changed the board of his agency, replacing it with his own people. Such behaviour is enough without there having to be solid evidence."

Mr Uthai's comment came after Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet said he would not debate corruption charges since air-tight evidence is always demanded by the Government. Mr Uthai said Prachakon Thai held a party meeting yesterday and had not sent any representatives to attend his meeting on the Commerce Ministry. However, they could be doing so today, he said.

He maintained the Opposition is united and has established a strong systematic approach to its work in Parliament. Although the Thai Parliament has a relatively young life it has become quite efficient in its work within that limitation.

Chatchai Faces Corruption Allegations in Debate

BK1907021990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister [PM] Chatchai Chunhawan and PM's Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi were targets of Opposition allegations of irregularity during yesterday's no-confidence censure.

Sawat Khamprakop (Solidarity, Nakhon Sawan) charged that Caltex Oil won approval to build Thailand's fifth refinery without bidding on the direct intervention of the Premier, who chairs the National Energy Administration (NEA). Thailand has three refineries and the NEA had given Shell Oil approval to build the fourth after a study of the suitability of the various companies. However, Caltex petitioned the Prime Minister on January 29 this year for a review of the decision.

The Prime Minister ordered a petroleum subcommittee to review the decision contrary to regulations barring this, Mr Sawat charged. The sub-committee upheld the decision for Shell to build the fourth refinery.

The Prime Minister then took the matter to a meeting of the NEA and declared that Caltex would build the fifth refinery, without having to pass through any bidding procedure, Mr Sawat said. "I don't believe the Prime

Minister knows anything about kickbacks but there have been reports that some 600 million baht [approximately $24 million] had been offered over a period of time for this," Mr Sawat claimed.

Social Democratic Force party leader Chatchawan Chomphudaeng alleged that Prime Minister's Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi had used his personal contacts to allow the Kuwait Petroleum International company to set up an aviation fuel supply company. The company is in direct competition with the State's Bangkok Aviation Fuel and Service company to which many official agencies, including Thai International, the Petroleum Authority, Thai Airways Company, and Don Muang airport are shareholders, he said.

The Kuwaiti company initially sought to become a partner in the Bangkok company when the Prime Minister and Mr Korn visited Kuwait in 1988. However, regulations barred this and the Kuwaiti company was allowed to set up its own branch in Bangkok last year. Mr Chatchawan charged that this had caused a large loss in sales for the domestic company.

Both Gen Chatchai and Mr Kon did not answer the charges yesterday in accordance with a Cabinet agreement that ministers would answer the charges during the final day of debate today.

'About 5,000' Protest Proposed Dam in South

BK1707030390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Surat Thani—About 5,000 people marched around Muang district here on Sunday night [15 July] as rallies against the proposed Kaeng Krung dam in Khiriratnikhom district continued in this southern province.

The protesters said their march around the district was to make known their opposition to the dam project. They then gathered at Sanam Si Surat where rally leaders made speeches attacking the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and politicians who support the project.

The leaders also spoke about the environmental impact of the proposed dam in Takuk Nua sub-district of Khiriratnikhom, saying it would cause forest destruction and water pollution. Most of the protesters dispersed around midnight, but 60 of them remained at the field overnight.

Wan Chansut, a resident from Takuk Nua sub-district, claimed that at least 3,000 people from outer districts, especially from Khiriratnikhom, were expected to join them last night. They would not walk around the city again but would instead remain at the field to wait for an answer from the Government following today's Cabinet meeting, he said.

Their demands include cancellation of the project and the declaration of the dam site, Khlong Tan forest, as a national park. "If the government does not cancel the project, we will rally until we die," Mr Wan said. He warned that some 3,000 protesters might seize a train and travel to Bangkok to hold a rally outside parliament. Mr Wan claimed that a public opinion poll had indicated about 20,000 people in the province oppose the project.

EGAT had contacted Wichan Phetcharat, a rally leader, informing him that the agency had moved some machinery from the Kaeng Krung site to the site of the proposed Chiao Lan dam in Ban Takhun district, he said. The removal of the machinery is still to be verified. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Hanoi Welcomes Baker's Statement on Cambodia

BK1907103390 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Vietnam welcomes the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that the United States will open a dialogue with Vietnam on the Cambodian issue and withdraw its recognition of the coalition government of the Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations.

At the press conference on Thursday, 19 July, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Vietnam quoted Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach as saying: Vietnam has many times expressed its wish for an early, fair and equitable solution to the Cambodian issue on the basis of the respect for Cambodia's national right and the interest of lasting peace and stability for the whole Southeast Asia. Vietnam is ready to negotiate with concerned countries on the Cambodian issue. Therefore, Vietnam welcomes the July 18 statement of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

AFP Notes Baker's Comments

BK1907044890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi, July 19 (AFP)—Vietnam on Thursday welcomed the U.S. decision to drop recognition of the resistance's tenure of Cambodia's U.N. seat and indicated that it was ready for talks with Washington on Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said, "Vietnam has stated on several occasions that it wants to see soon a fair and rational political solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of respect for the national rights of Cambodia and of peace and lasting stability for the whole of Southeast Asia." "Vietnam is ready to negotiate with all countries affected by the Cambodian problem... That is why Vietnam welcomes the declaration made by the American secretary of state," he added, in a statement.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Paris on Wednesday that Washington would no longer recognise the United Nations seat held by the three party resistance alliance since 1982. He added that the United

States was willing to open a dialogue with Vietnam on Cambodia but denied that this involved a normalisation of ties between the countries.

Washington does not recognise Hanoi, which ousted a genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in January 1979 and installed the current government in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Baker said the U.S. move was aimed at preventing a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, which spearheads the military effort of the resistance alliance against the Phnom Penh government.

Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations Trinh Xuan Lang said in New York Wednesday that Vietnam also "has always been very strongly opposed to the Khmer Rouge and their return to power" and so has "U.S. public opinion."

The Phnom Penh government also welcomed Thursday the U.S. policy change as a step towards peace and improved relations between the two countries.

Washington has said it will continue to support the two non-communist factions in the resistance led by former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and nationalist Son Sann.

Envoy Calls Change 'Positive'

BK1907054190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] According to the BBC, U.S. Secretary of State Baker has announced an important policy change toward the Cambodian issue. Speaking at a news conference in Paris, U.S. Secretary of State Baker said: The United States is prepared to open a dialogue with Vietnam on a solution to Cambodia and wants to do everything possible to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power.

Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations, has welcomed the announcement of the U.S. secretary of state, saying that this is a positive decision which should have been made public long ago. Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang said: The U.S. stance is proof of world public opinion's growing opposition to the Khmer Rouge.

Concerning the dialogue with the United States, Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang expressed hope that this move would ultimately lead to the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Hanoi Cites Weak U.S. Role at G-7 Summit

BK1807145190 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] As soon as the 16th annual summit conference of seven industrialized countries ended in Houston, the U.S. newspaper the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said that the myth about the U.S. no longer exists and the U.S. is now like others. This was a correct assessment because for the first time in history of the meeting of the leaders of the seven industrialized countries, the U.S. voice did not hold water.

The U.S. allies in this meeting did not listen to Washington. Therefore, in all key issues from aid to the Soviet Union, the environment, and relations with China to price subsidies for agricultural products, the leaders of the seven countries voiced arguments, and their negotiations were difficult for they squabbled with each other in using each word. That is why the Houston summit did not solve any important disputes. Moreover, the leaders of the seven industrialized countries were more different than unanimous. This is easy to understand because while at the summit, leaders of the seven countries were deeply differentiated, and the Federal Republic of Germany separated itself from Washington's domination.

The NEW YORK TIMES on July 12 said that in Houston the people witnessed the departure of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Mr. Helmut Kohl has become an outstanding figure in Houston. Meanwhile, Japan also separated itself from the U.S. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is not as famous as Mr. Kohl, but in Houston Mr. Kaifu opened a [word indistinct] for his country to have an active role in solving international issues.

Facing this situation, British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher bitterly said that in the Houston summit there were three groups and regions: one is based on the U.S. dollar, one is based on yen—the Japanese currency—and the last one is based on the Deutsch Mark—the Federal Republic of Germany's currency.

There were times when the U.S. could do what it wanted in the annual meetings of the seven industrialized countries. But in this summit, the U.S. had no longer its superiority and this was admitted by the U.S. President Mr. George Bush himself. Speaking at the press conference on July 11, President Bush said that the U.S. could no longer impose its will on other countries and that all countries know what they have to do in this fast changing world.

However, it was not accurate to say that the Houston summit was a failure. Though there were more differences than unanimity, leaders of these countries have agreed on the gradual reduction of prices subsidies of agricultural products. It was notable that this unanimity could not make these countries unite with each other as before. This unanimity was not created by the U.S. but by the arrangement and concession of other countries.

In Houston, it was clear that the U.S. could not command other countries, therefore, the myth about the U.S. no longer exists, and the U.S. is now standing in the same rank with other countries.

NHAN DAN Supports African National Congress

BK1907090590 Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 19—NHAN DAN paper, in its commentary today, voices strong support for the African

National Congress' [ANC's] stance in its negotiation with the Pretoria administration for a peaceful solution to problems of the country.

The paper comments that changes in South African Administration's policy towards the black people have resulted from the protracted struggle full of hardships and sacrifices of the South African people and the African people as a whole, especially of peoples in the front-line countries, as well as from the broad international solidarity against the apartheid regime.

"However," the paper says, "the changes in South Africa have been of no fundamental signficance so far. Many apartheid fighters are still being detained, tens of thousands of patriots have had to take refuge in foreign countries, and laws reeking with racism have remained unchanged".

NHAN DAN denounces the Bush administration for taking advantage of Nelson Mandela's presence in the U.S.A. to ease struggle of black and coloured Americans and finally to gain more votes for the Republican Party in the coming election.

"The Klerk administration is attempting to create, through its soft words and moderate attitude, an optimistic atmosphere in the society in order to ease tension and rid itself of economic sanctions by foreign countries. This is first of all for the benefit of the racist capitalist groups in South Africa which have had close relations with foreign capitalist groups," the paper notes.

It adds that "it is sensible to remark that the black people's demand for a genuinely democratic and non-racial regime built on the basis of giving right to vote to everyone and the transfer of power from the white to the black will not be met before long". Realities show that the ANC and the South African people as a whole are facing new trials," concludes NHAN DAN.

CPSU Statutes, Medvedev Appointment Cited

BK1807134390 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The Soviet news agency TASS on Tuesday, 17 July, released the full text of the statutes of the Soviet Communist Party adopted by the 28th party congress. The same day Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appointed Mr. Vadim Medvedev, 61, former Politburo member and former secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, member of the Soviet Presidential Council.

Nguyen Van Linh Greets Israeli Communists

BK1507154390 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 15 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, has extended his congratulations to Meir Vilner and Tawfiq Tubi on their election respectively as president and secretary general of the Communist Party of Israel (CPI).

The Vietnamese leader wished them success in implementing the tasks worked out by the 21st (?CPI Congress) and the solidarity and friendship between the two parties further consolidation and development.

CSFR Company To Help Repatriate Workers

BK1907093190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 15 Jul 90

[Text] According to the Czechoslovak News Agency, CTK, a number of Czechoslovak businessmen from the Intercommerce Corporation in Prague have made arrangements to repatriate Vietnamese workers. The Czechoslovak Airline Company, CSA, recently cancelled its regular flights to Hanoi. It is reported that five flights have been reserved for the Vietnamese workers. The first one will leave Prague on 17 July and the last one on 28 August. About 600 Vietnamese workers will be repatriated in this arrangement.

Cuban Ambassador Holds News Conference in Hanoi

BK1807160190 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 18—Cuban ambassador to Vietnam Armando Saucedo Yero called a press conference here today on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the 1953 revolution.

The Cuban diplomat described the attack on the Moncada Fortress as a milestone of the most important period of Cuba's revolutionary struggle for national independence and freedom. He also briefed the audience on major achievements recorded by the Cuban people over the past decade in socioeconomic development and national defense. He reiterated Cuba's firm determination to safeguard the revolutionary gains and advance along the path of socialism.

Delegation Attends Indochinese Banking Meeting

BK1807090290 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 18—The fifth banking conference of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia has been opened in Vientiane.

The Vietnamese delegation to the event is led by Cao Sy Kiem, director of the Vietnam State Bank; the Lao delegation, by Mrs. Pani Yathotou, governor of the Lao National Bank; and the Cambodian delegation, by Cha Rieng, president of the Cambodian National Bank.

The conference is to discuss orientations and measures to cooperate more effectively, clear debts among them, and consolidate and perfect the debt-clearing mechanism agreed at the fourth conference held in Phnom

Penh in June 1988. It will also work out a cooperation plan for the 1991-92 period.

Radio Discusses Pluralism, Multiparty System

BK1907075290 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Jul 90

[From "Talk of the Week" section]

[Text] As the situation in Eastern Europe develops, some people maintain that to have real democracy, pluralism and multiparty political system must be practised. Is this true? Through realities in Vietnam and world developments, we would like to discuss with you the following:

There are controversial opinions around the concept of democracy. However, from the angle of social classes, democracy means the right to distribute labor gains. In a class existing society, that right never belongs to the laboring people. In the United States, considered the most democratic country in the world, tens of thousands of people are living an ugly and ignoble life. Colored people have been discriminated against. They have no right in the distribution of profits. There is no common democracy between the employers and their employees. Therefore, considering democracy in a country, we should not determine whether there is or there is not democracy, but we should determine to whom that democracy belongs and for whom it works.

It should be recalled that the 1940's was a period of pluralism and a multiparty political system in Vietnam. Besides the Communist Party, there were many other political parties such as the Vietnam Nationalist Party, the Dai Viet Party, and others, but it was then that the people's democracy was repeatedly violated and the Communist Party of Vietnam was the only party which defended democracy with the lives of all its members, and at present when political parties have appeared like mushrooms in Eastern Europe, the people have been awakened and worried about their right to democracy being badly violated and dispossessed.

We would like to remind you that antisocialist forces in these countries, after clamoring for pluralism and a multiparty political system and after taking advantage of the people's (?pervert) attitude to seize power, have turned their backs on the people and spearheaded the communists, trying by all means to wipe them out of sociopolitical life. Obviously, there is absolutely no pluralism in the concept of these forces.

Over the past 50 years, the Communist Party of Vietnam has brought into full play democracy, leading the national democratic revolution to victory and leading the country to socialism. Following the sixth congress, democracy has worked more effectively, facilitating the renovation process. For example, many years ago, the National Assembly met just to pass ready-made party policies and guidelines. Nowadays, most of the debates often take place at National Assembly meetings where deputies discuss state policies and laws. In some cases, the laws were passed by voting each article [words indistinct] in a principle of democratic centralism. Meanwhile, the parliament of a Western country had to spend three months discussing a social welfare budget but could not amend the draft. Obviously, it seems very democratic but, in fact, it is high centralism in the interest of the ruling capitalist circles.

However, much remains to be done in our country to have a perfect democracy and as for the Vietnamese people, there is no other democracy to replace socialist democracy, and to make this democracy work, no one can replace the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Party Conference

BK1907090790 Hanoi VNA in English 0738 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 19—A conference was convened in Ho Chi Minh City recently by the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee for senior officials of the southern provincial and city party committees to discuss measures to strengthen and purify the party organization and to prepare for the coming seventh party congress.

Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and members of the Secretariat attended the conference.

The conference proposed a number of measures to re-examine party members' credentials, and suggested that that process be closely attached to the supervision of party members' abidance of the party statute and their implementation of the state policy against corruption.

Speaking at the conference, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh brought out initial but important achievements, especially in the economic field, recorded by the people since the sixth party congress in 1986. "However," he said, "we have to renovate more vigorously and comprehensively. This requires us to consolidate and purify our party and strengthen the relationship between the party and the people."

The party leader pointed out that to consolidate the party organization is to renovate and improve the quality of party activities and methods of guidance, first of all to implement the principle of collective leadership, individual responsibility, and democratic centralism within the par The consolidation of the party must ensure the improvement of the quality and combat strength of party members and cadres in accordance with the motto "quality is more important than quantity," the party leader concluded.

Leaders Mark Assault Youth Forces Anniversary

BK1807141190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Jul 90

[Report on 13 July meeting held in Hanoi by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee to

mark the 40th founding anniversary of the assault youth forces—portions recorded; all figures as heard]

[Summary] "This morning at the conference hall of the Ho Chi Minh museum in Hanoi, more than 300 delegates representing the three generations of assault youths from all parts of the country and many resprentatives of various organs, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi attended a meeting held by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee to commemorate the 40th founding anniversary of the assault youth forces, 15 July 1950-15 July 1990.

"Also participating in the meeting were Comrade Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade Vu Mao, member of the party Central Committee and director of the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State; Comrade Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee; and many other comrade leaders."

Addressing the meeting, Comrade Ha Quang Du recalled the historic situation and birth of the assault youth forces. He said:

[Begin recording] "No sooner had the assault youths of the first generation fulfilled their historic mission than the anti-U.S. resistance for the national salvation of our people began to face its first tough challenge. Responding to the appeal made by the party and Uncle Ho to all fronts to resolutely defeat the U.S. aggressors and to understand that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, together with the three Readies and five Volunteers movements, the youth union proposed to the party and state the formation of assault youth units to engage in the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation." Only a few months later, as many as 100,000 youths volunteered to join these units. On 25 April 1965, the first assault youth unit to engage in the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation was established.

"The first achievement of assault youths of the second generation, recorded in their history, was the opening of the victorious Truong Son trail. Assault youths were seen on all battlefronts and at all vunerable points such as Ham Rong, Ben Thuy, Dong Lap, and so forth." In the 10-year period from 1965 to 1975, more than 130,000 youths joined the assault forces. These included 70,000 female members.

"During this glorious 10-year period, assault youths opened 100 roads totaling over 4,000 km, defended 2,500 key positions, destroyed 10,000 bombs, transported tens of thousands of metric tons of goods, engaged in hundreds of battles, annihilated nearly 1,000 enemy troops, and shot down 18 aircraft."

After the great 1975 spring victory, hundreds of thousands of youths voluntarily joined the assault youth forces to engage in economic development.

"The value of the gross production of the assault youth forces in 1989 alone reached more than 70 billion dong and tens of millions of rubles or dollars. This year, they will strive to increase this figure to 100 billion dong in recognition of Uncle Ho's birth centenary.

"On the social front, in the past 15 years, the assault youth forces provided educational and vocational training and found jobs for 200,000 youths. During this same period, 70,000 members of the assault youth forces were admitted into the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and 2,000 into the party, while 5,000 became managerial cadres and 4,000 youth union cadres at various levels." [end recording]

After affirming the contributions of assault youths of various generations in each revolutionary stage, Comrade Ha Quang Du also pointed out the shortcomings and weaknesses of various assault youth units currently engaged in economic work which must be overcome.

Le Quang Dao at Agricultural Planning Institute

BK1807115390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Jul 90

[Text] According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent, yesterday, 11 July, Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, paid a working visit to the Agricultural Planning Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

Leading officials of the institute briefed the National Assembly chairman on the institute's development as well as its scientific research activities carried out in support of agricultural production such as the ecological use of agricultural land, the evaluation of natural resources in terms of the quantity and quality of land, and the formation of an overall agricultural development plan. Based on the final results of different research projects, the institute has also suggested various development policies and has introduced the initial results of a research project on the peasant household-based economy in Cam Binh District, Hai Hung Province.

Speaking on this occasion, Chairman Le Quang Dao reminded scientific research agencies of the need to work out the best plans and to provide the leadership with necessary information and sound scientific data so they can correctly define the objectives of the national socio-economic development strategy.

Party Official Oversees Flood Relief Operations

BK1807111990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jul 90

[Text] On 9 and 10 July, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi, member of the party Central Committee and minister of state in charge of mountain and ethnic minority affairs, paid a working visit to Lai Chau Province to oversee efforts to ease the consequences of the recent flash floods. Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi conveyed the Council of Ministers' sympathy

to compatriots and cadres in flash flood-stricken areas in Lai Chau city and Muong Lay District.

Following his working session with standing bodies of the Lai Chau provincial party and people's committees, Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi visited the hard-hit areas to oversee relief operations and to guide urgent road repairing and rice distribution to alleviate food shortages. The comrade praised the local administration for its urgent measures to normalize the people's lives. He reminded everyone of the need to learn from their experiences with flash flood control and to curb the destruction of watershed forests so as to be able to cope with worse natural disasters.

Due to extensive damages and communications difficulties, planned relief work has not yet been carried out though two weeks have elapsed. As a result, food, materials, and goods provided by the central government have not been sent to Lai Chau city. The 50-ton rice supply conveyed via Hoang Lien Son has not yet reached their destination. Except for the communications network connecting Lai Chau city and Dien Bien District, all other communications systems are still obstructed. Since roads within Lai Chau city are all blocked, no vehicles can be used. More than 5,000 people have lost their homes and property and are experiencing great difficulties.

The Ministry of Communications and Tranportation is assisting Lai Chau to speedily restore various roads leading to the city and in repairing several bridges downtown. Measures have been worked out to quickly deliver grain and food supplies to Lai Chau city. The ministry has also concentrated manpower, capital, and budget to assist the province so it can overcome its immediate difficulties.

The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare should make spot fact-finding tours to resolve social welfare issues. Ministries and central and local sectors should all assist Lai Chau so it can promptly and realistically resolve their immediate and serious difficulties, and overcome the long-lasting consequences of natural disasters.

Tien Giang Sends People to New Economic Zones

BK1807101590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Jul 90

[Text] Since early this year, Tien Giang Province has sent almost 2,500 families to build new economic zones in various localities. The resettlers have reclaimed 1,400 hectares of virgin land for cultivation, mostly in the northern districts of the Dong Thap Muoi region. One dozen water conservancy projects have recently been commissioned to serve agriculture in the area. The local authorities have built more roads, provided electricity, and set up cultural and social centers for the new settlers. The settlers have dug almost 20 km of canal to bring water to cultivated areas, improved the quality of land, and plowed 800 hectares of ricefields for their next crop. At present, the province is making preparations to resettle 400-500 families in the Dong Thap Muoi region.